

# **EXHIBIT 7**

## **Part 2**

10/18/18

The  
Merriam-  
Webster  
Dictionary



Merriam-Webster, Incorporated  
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## PREFACE

This new edition of *The Merriam-Webster Dictionary* is the seventh in a line of Merriam-Webster paperback dictionaries which began in 1947. It is based on and preserves the best aspects of preceding editions, but it now includes the most important recent vocabulary that was added to *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition* over the past decade. Throughout the dictionary, over 8,000 usage examples, including 1,000 that are newly added for this edition, illustrate meanings and help to clarify definitions. All the new material has been based on examples of actual use found in the Merriam-Webster citation files and in edited texts online.

The nearly 65,000 entries and more than 75,000 definitions in this dictionary give coverage to the most frequently used words in the language. The heart of the dictionary is the A-Z vocabulary section, where readers will find information about meaning, spelling, pronunciation, etymology, and synonyms. This section is followed by others that users have long found useful: the section Foreign Words and Phrases covers words and phrases from other languages that often occur in English texts but have not become part of the English vocabulary; the section Biographical Names identifies individuals from history and contemporary culture, as well as biblical, legendary, and mythological characters; the section Geographical Names identifies places of importance in the United States and the world, along with current population figures.

*The Merriam-Webster Dictionary* has been created by a company that has been publishing dictionaries for more than 150 years and continues to maintain an in-house staff of experienced lexicographers. For this edition, the primary editing of the main A-Z vocabulary section and the Foreign Words and Phrases was done by Senior Editor James G. Lowe. Daniel J. Hopkins edited the Geographical Names, and Michael G. Belanger edited the Biographical Names. Specialist editors included Adrienne M. Scholz for cross-reference, Joshua S. Guenter for pronunciation, James L. Rader for etymology, and Joan I. Narmontas for life science. Data entry and data-file processing were handled by Daniel B. Brandon. Susan L. Brady acted as production editor, guiding the book through its typesetting stages, assisted by Emily A. Vezina. Proofreaders included Tasha Martino Bigelow, Serenity H. Carr, Ilya A. Davidovich, Allison M. DeJordy, Joanne M. Despres, Benjamin T. Korzec, Maria A.

or limit *the ~ of a hill* — **crest-ed** *\'kres-təd\ adj* — **crest-less** *adj*

**2crest** *vb* 1 : CROWN 2 : to reach the crest of 3 : to rise to a crest

**crest-fall-en** *\'krest-,fô-lən\ adj* : DISPIRITED, DEJECTED

**Cre-ta-ceous** *\kri-tā-shəs\ adj* : of, relating to, or being the latest period of the Mesozoic era marked by great increase in flowering plants, diversification of mammals, and extinction of the dinosaurs — **Cretaceous n**

**cre-tin** *\kri-tēn\ n* [F *crétin*, fr. F *dial. cretin*, lit., wretch, innocent victim, fr. L *christianus* Christian] 1 : one affected with cretinism 2 : a stupid person

**cre-tin-ism** *\,i-zəm\ n* : a usu. congenital abnormal condition characterized by physical stunting and mental retardation

**cre-tonne** *\kri-tēn\ n* : a strong unglazed cotton cloth for curtains and upholstery

**cre-vasse** *\kri-väs\ n* : a deep fissure esp. in a glacier

**crev-ice** *\'krev-əs\ n* : a narrow fissure

**1crew** *\'krü\ chiefly Brit past of CROW*

**2crew** *n* [ME *creue*, fr. MF, a reinforcement, lit., increase, fr. *croistre* to grow, fr. L *crescere*] 1 : a body of people trained to work together for certain purposes 2 : a group of people who operate a ship, train, aircraft, or spacecraft 3 : the rowers and coxswain of a racing shell; also : the sport of rowing engaged in by a crew — **crew-man** *\-mən\ n*

**crew cut** *n* : a very short bristly haircut

**crew-el** *\'krü-əl\ n* : slackly twisted worsted yarn used for embroidery — **crew-el-work** *\,-wərk\ n*

**1crib** *\'krüb\ n* 1 : a manger for feeding animals 2 : a child's bedstead with high sides 3 : a building or bin for storage (as of grain) 4 : something used for cheating in an exam

**2crib** *vb* **cribbed**; **crib-bing** 1 : to put in a crib 2 : STEAL, PLAGIARIZE — **crib-ber** *n*

**crib-bage** *\'kri-bij\ n* : a card game usu. played by two players and scored on a board (**cribbage board**)

**crib death** *n* : SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME

**crick** *\'krik\ n* : a painful spasm of muscles (as of the neck)

**1crick-et** *\'kri-kət\ n* [ME *criket*, fr. AF, of imit. origin] : any of a family of leaping insects related to the grasshoppers and noted for the chirping noises of the male

**2cricket** *n* [MF *criquet* goal stake in a bowling game] : a game played with a bat and ball by two teams on a field centering upon two wickets each defended by a batsman

**crier** *\'kri(-ə)r\ n* : one who calls out proclamations and announcements

**crime** *\'krim\ n* : a serious offense against the public law

**1crim-i-nal** *\'kri-mə-nəl\ adj* 1 : involving or being a crime 2 : relating to crime or its punishment — **crim-i-nal-i-ty** *\,kri-mə-'nəl-i-tē\ n* — **crim-i-nal-ly** *\-kəlē\ adv*

**2criminal** *n* : one who has committed a crime

**crim-i-nol-o-gy** *\,kri-mə-'nä-lə-jē\ n* : the scientific study of crime and criminals — **crim-i-no-log-i-cal** *\,-mə-nəlō-'jä-jik\ adj* — **crim-i-nol-o-gist** *\,kri-mə-'nä-lə-jist\ n*

**1crimp** *\'krimp\ vb* : to cause to become crinkled, wavy, or bent

**2crimp** *n* : something (as a curl in hair) produced by or as if by crimping

**crim-son** *\'krim-zən\ n* : a deep purplish red color — **crimson** *adj*

**cringe** *\'krinj\ vb* **cringed**; **cring-ing** : to shrink in fear : WINCE, COWER

**crin-kle** *\'krin-kəl\ vb* **crin-kled**; **crin-kling** : to form many short bends or curves; also : WRINKLE — **crinkle** *n* — **crin-kly** *\-kə-lē\ adj*

**crin-o-line** *\'kri-nə-lən\ n* 1 : an open-weave cloth used for stiffening and lining 2 : a full stiff skirt or underskirt made of crinoline

**1crip-ple** *\'krip-pəl\ n* : one that is disabled or deficient in a specified manner *(a social ~)*

**2cripple** *vb* **crip-pled**; **crip-pling** 1 : to make lame 2 : to make useless or imperfect — **crip-pler** *\'krip-pələr\ n*

**cri-sis** *\'kri-sēs\ n*, *pl* **cri-ses** *\,-sēz\* [ME, fr. L, fr. Gk *krisis*, lit., decision, fr. *krinein* to decide] 1 : the turning point for better or worse in an acute disease or fever 2 : a decisive or critical moment

**crisp** *\'krisp\ adj* 1 : CURLY, WAVY 2 : BRITTLE *(a ~ potato chip)* 3 : FIRM, FRESH *(~ lettuce)* 4 : being sharp and clear *(a ~ photo)* 5 : LIVELY, SPARKLING 6 : FROSTY, SNAPPY; also : INVIGORATING — **crisp** *vb* — **crisp-ly** *adv* — **crisp-ness** *n* — **crispy** *adj*

**criss-cross** *\'kris-,krōs\ vb* 1 : to mark with crossed lines 2 : to go or pass back and forth

**2crisscross** *adj* : marked or characterized by crisscrossing — **crisscross** *adv*

**3crisscross** *n* : a pattern formed by crossed lines

**crit** *abbr* critical; criticism

**cri-te-ri-on** *\'kri-tirē-ən\ n*, *pl* **cria** *\-ē-ə\* : a standard on which a judgment may be based

**crit-ic** *\'kri-tik\ n* 1 : a person who judges literary or artistic works 2 : one inclined to find fault

**crit-i-cal** *\'kri-ti-kəl\ adj* 1 : being or relating to a condition or disease involving danger of death *(~ care)* 2 : being a crisis 3 : inclined to criticize 4 : relating to criticism or critics 5 : requiring careful judgment *(~ thinking)* — **crit-i-cally** *\-kəlē\ adv*

**crit-i-cise** *Brit var of CRITICIZE*

**crit-i-cism** *\'kri-tik-izəm\ n* 1 : the act of criticizing; esp. : CENSURE 2 : a judgment or review 3 : the art of judging works of literature or art

**crit-i-cize** *\'kri-tik-,īz\ vb* **-cized**; **-ciz-ing** 1 : to judge as a critic : EVALUATE 2 : to find fault : express criticism ♦ *Synonyms* *see also CRITICIZE, CENSURE*

**cri-tique** *\'kri-tik\ n* : a critical estimate or discussion

**crit-ter** *\'kri-tər\ n* : CREATURE

**croak** *\'krōk\ n* : a hoarse harsh cry (as of a frog) — **croak** *vb*

**croak-er** *\'krō-kər\ n* 1 : an animal that croaks 2 : a fish that produces croaking or grunting noises

**Croat** *\'krōt\ at\ n* : CROATIAN

**Cro-atian** *\'krō-'ä-shən\ n* 1 : a native or inhabitant of Croatia 2 : a Slavic language spoken by Croatians — **Croatian** *adj*

**cro-chet** *\'krō-'shəl\ n* : needlework done with a single thread and hooked needle — **crochet** *vb*

**crock** *\'kräk\ n* : a thick earthenware pot or jar

**crock-ery** *\'krä-ka-rē\ n* : EARTHENWARE

**croc-o-dile** *\'krä-ka-dil(-ə)l\ n* [ME & L: ME *cocodrille*, fr. AF, fr. ML *cocodrillus*, alter. of L *crocodilus*, fr. Gk *krokodilos* lizard, crocodile, fr. *krokē* shingle, pebble + *drilos* worm] : any of several thick-skinned long-bodied carnivorous reptiles of tropical and subtropical waters

**cro-cus** *\'krō-kəs\ n*, *pl* **cro-cus-es** also **crocus** or **cro-ci** *\,-kē\* : any of a large genus of low herbs related to the irises and having brightly colored flowers borne singly in early spring

**Crohn's disease** *\'krōn\ n* : a chronic inflammatory disease of the gastrointestinal tract and esp. the ileum

**crois-sant** *\'krō-sänt, krwä-'sänt\ n*, *pl* **croissants** *\same or -sänts, -säntz\* : a rich crescent-shaped roll

**Cro-Ma-gnon** *\'krō-'mag-nən, -'man-yən\ n* : a hominid of a tall erect race known from skeletal remains found in southern France and usu. classified as the same species as present-day humans — **Cro-Magnon** *adj*

**crone** *\'krōn\ n* : HAG

**cro-ny** *\'krō-nē\ n*, *pl* **cronies** : a close friend esp. of long standing

**1crook** *\'krük\ vb* : to curve or bend sharply

**2crook** *n* 1 : a bent or curved implement 2 : a bent or curved part; also : BEND, CURVE 3 : SWINDLER, THIEF

**crook-ed** *\'krük-kəd\ adj* 1 : having a crook : BENT, CURVED 2 : DISHONEST — **crook-ed-ly** *adv* — **crook-ed-ness** *n*

**croon** *\'krūn\ vb* : to sing or hum in a gentle murmuring voice — **croon-er** *n*

**1crop** *\'krāp\ n* 1 : the handle of a whip; also : a short riding whip 2 : a pouch in the throat of many birds and insects where food is received 3 : something (as a plant product) that can be harvested; also : the yield at harvest

**2crop** *vb* **cropped**; **crop-ping** 1 : to remove the tips of : cut off short; also : TRIM 2 : to feed on by cropping 3 : to devote (land) to crops 4 : to appear unexpectedly *(new problems have cropped up)*

**crop duster** *n* : a person who uses an airplane to spray crops with insecticidal dusts; also : an airplane so used

**crop-land** *\-,lənd\ n* : land devoted to the production of plant crops

**crop-per** *\'krā-pər\ n* : a raiser of crops; esp. : SHARECROPPER

**cro-quet** *\'krō-'kāt\ n* : a game in which mallets are used to drive wooden balls through a series of wickets set out on a lawn

**cro-quette** *\'krō-'ket\ n* [F] : a small often rounded mass of minced meat, fish, or vegetables fried in deep fat

**cro-sier** or **cro-zier** *\'krō-'zhēr\ n* : a staff carried by bishops and abbots

**1cross** *\'krōs\ n* 1 : a structure consisting of an upright beam and a crossbar used esp. by the ancient Romans for execution 2 : a figure of the cross on which Christ was crucified used as a Christian symbol 3 : a hybridizing of unlike individuals or strains; also : a product of this 4 : a punch delivered with a circular motion over an opponent's lead

**2cross** *vb* 1 : to lie or place across; also : INTERSECT 2 : to cancel by marking a cross on or by lining through 3 : THWART, OBSTRUCT 4 : to go or extend across : TRAVERSE 5 : HYBRIDIZE 6 : to meet and pass on the way *(our letters ~ed in the mail)*

**3cross** *adj* 1 : lying across 2 : CONTRARY, OPPOSED 3 : marked by bad temper 4 : HYBRID — **cross-ly** *adv*

**cross-bar** *\'krōs-,bär\ n* : a transverse bar or piece

**cross-bow** *\-,bō\ n* : a short bow mounted crosswise at the end of a wooden stock that shoots short arrows

**cross-breed** *\'krōs-,brēd, -brēd\ vb* — **bred** *\'brēd\*; **breeding** : HYBRIDIZE

**cross-coun-tr-y** *\-'kən-trē\ adj* 1 : extending or moving across a country 2 : proceeding over the countryside (as fields and woods) and not by roads 3 : of or relating to racing or skiing over the countryside instead of over a track or run — **cross-country** *adv*

**cross-cur-rent** *\-'kər-ənt\ n* 1 : a current running counter to another 2 : a conflicting tendency — usu. used in pl.

**1cross-cut** *\-,kət\ vb* : to cut or saw crosswise esp. of the grain of wood

**2cross-cut** *adj* 1 : made or used for cross-cutting *(a ~ saw)* 2 : cut across the grain

**3crosscut** *n* : something that cuts through transversely

**cross-ex-am-i-ne** *\,krō-sig-'za-mən\ vb* : to examine with questions to check the answers to previous questions — **cross-ex-am-i-na-tion** *\,-za-mə-'nā-shən\ n* — **cross-ex-am-in-er** *n*

**cross-eyed** *\'krō-,sīd\ adj* : having one or both eyes turned inward toward the nose

**cross-fer-ti-l-i-za-tion** *\-,fər-tə-lə-'zā-shən\ n* 1 : fertilization between sex cells produced by separate individuals or sometimes by individuals of different kinds; also : CROSS-POLLINATION 2 : a broadening or productive interchange (as between cultures) — **cross-fer-ti-lize** *\-'fər-tə-līz\ vb*

**pre-set** \pri'-set\ *vb* **-set**; **-set-ting** : to set beforehand — **pre-set** *n*

**pre-shrink** \pri'-shrink\ *vb* **-shrank** \'-shrank\; **-shrunken** \'-shrunken\ : to shrink (as a fabric) before making into a garment

**pre-side** \pri'-zid\ *vb* **pre-sid-ed**; **pre-sid-ing** [L *praesidere* to guard, preside over, fr. *prae* in front of + *sedere* to sit] 1 : to exercise guidance or control 2 : to occupy the place of authority; *esp* : to act as chairman

**pre-si-dent** \pri'-zid-ent\ *n* 1 : one chosen to preside (as of the assembly) 2 : the chief officer of an organization (as a corporation or society) 3 : an elected official serving as both chief of state and chief political executive; *also* : a chief of state often with only minimal political powers — **pre-si-den-tial** \pri'-zid-ent'-shəl\ *adj*

**pre-si-dio** \pri'-sē-dē'-ō, -sē'-ō, *n, pl* **-di-os** [Sp] : a military post or fortified settlement in an area currently or orig. under Spanish control

**pre-sid-i-um** \pri'-sē-dē'-əm\ *n, pl* **-ia** \'-dē'-ə\ or **-iums** [Russ *prezidium*, fr. L *praesidium* garrison] : a permanent executive committee that acts for a larger body in a Communist country

**1 pre-soak** \pri'-sōk\ *vb* : to soak beforehand

**2 pre-soak** \pri'-sōk\ *n* 1 : an instance of presoaking 2 : a preparation used in presoaking clothes

**pre-sort** \pri'-sōrt\ *vb* : to sort (mail) by zip code usu. before delivery to a post office

**1 press** \pri's\ *n* 1 : a crowded condition 2 : THROG 3 : a machine for exerting pressure 3 : CLOSET, CUPBOARD 4 : PRESSURE 5 : the properly creased condition of a freshly pressed garment 6 : PRINTING PRESS; *also* : the act or the process of printing 7 : a printing or publishing establishment 8 : the media (as newspapers and magazines) of public news and comment; *also* : persons (as reporters) employed in these media 9 : comment in newspapers and periodicals

**2 press** *vb* 1 : to bear down upon : push steadily against 2 : ASSAULT, COMPEL 3 : to squeeze out the juice or contents of (as grapes) 4 : to squeeze to a desired density, shape, or smoothness; *esp* : IRON 5 : to try hard to persuade: URGE 6 : to follow through : PROSECUTE 7 : CROWD (reporters *~ed* around the players) 8 : to force one's way 9 : to require haste or speed in action — **press-er** *n*

**press agent** *n* : an agent employed to establish and maintain good public relations through publicity

**press-ing** *adj* : URGENT (as need)

**press-man** \pri's-mən, -mən\ *n* : the operator of a press and esp. a printing press

**press-room** \rūm, -rūm\ *n* 1 : a room in a printing plant containing the printing presses 2 : a room for the use of reporters

**1 pres-sure** \pri'-shər\ *n* 1 : the burden of physical or mental distress 2 : the action

of pressing; *esp* : the application of force to something by something else in direct contact with it 3 : the force exerted over a surface divided by its area 4 : the stress or urgency of matters demanding attention

**pressure** *vb* **pres-sured**; **pres-sur-ing** : to apply pressure to

**pressure group** *n* : a group that seeks to influence governmental policy but not to elect candidates to office

**pressure suit** *n* : an inflatable suit for high-altitude flight or spaceflight to protect the body from low pressure

**pres-sur-ise** Brit var of **PRESSURIZE**

**pres-sur-ize** \pri'-shō-,rīz\ *vb* **-ized**; **-iz-ing** 1 : to maintain higher pressure within than without; *esp* : to maintain normal atmospheric pressure within (as an airplane cabin) during high-altitude flight or spaceflight 2 : to apply pressure to 3 : to design to withstand pressure — **pres-sur-i-za-tion** \pri'-shō-,rē-,zā-shən\ *n*

**pres-ti-dig-i-ta-tion** \pri'-tē-,dī-,jē-,tā-shən\ *n* : SLEIGHT OF HAND

**pres-tige** \pri'-tēzh, -tēzh\ *n* [F, fr. MF, conjuror's trick, illusion, fr. LL *praestigium*, fr. L *praestigiae*, pl. conjuror's tricks, fr. *praestringere* to graze, blunt, constrict, fr. *prae-* in front of + *stringere* to bind tight] : standing or estimation in the eyes of people : REPUTATION ◆ **Synonyms** INFLUENCE, AUTHORITY, WEIGHT, CACHET — **pres-ti-gious** \'-ti-jəs, -tē'-adj

**pres-to** \pri'-tō\ *interj* [It, quick, quickly] — used to indicate the sudden appearance or occurrence of something

**presto** *adv* or *adj* 1 : suddenly as if by magic: IMMEDIATELY 2 : at a rapid tempo — used as a direction in music

**pre-stress** \(\pri'-stres\ *vb* : to introduce internal stresses into (as a structural beam) to counteract later load stresses

**pre-sum-ably** \pri'-zū-ma-blē\ *adv* : by reasonable assumption

**pre-sum-e** \pri'-zūm\ *vb* **pre-sumed**; **pre-sum-ing** 1 : to take upon oneself without leave or warrant : DARE 2 : to take for granted : ASSUME 3 : to act or behave with undue boldness — **pre-sum-able** \'-zū-ma-bəl\ *adj*

**pre-sump-tion** \pri'-zəmp-shən\ *n* 1 : presumptuous attitude or conduct: AUDACITY 2 : an attitude or belief dictated by probability; *also* : the grounds lending probability to a belief — **pre-sump-tive** \'-tiv\ *adj*

**pre-sump-tu-ous** \pri'-zəmp-chə-wəs\ *adj* : overstepping due bounds : taking liberties — **pre-sump-tu-ous-ly** *adv*

**pre-sup-pose** \pri'-sə-pōz\ *vb* 1 : to suppose beforehand 2 : to require beforehand as a necessary condition — **pre-sup-po-si-tion** \(\pri'-sə-pō-zishən\ *n*

**pre-teen** \pri'-tēn\ *n* : a boy or girl not yet 13 years old — **preteen** *adj*

**pre-tend** \pri'-tēnd\ *vb* 1 : PROFESS (as doesn't ~ to be scientific) 2 : FEIGN (as to be angry) 3 : to lay claim (as to a throne) — **pre-tender** *n*

**pre-tense** or **pre-tence** \pri'-tēns, pri'-tēns\ *n* 1 : CLAIM; *esp* : one not supported by fact 2 : mere display : SHOW 3 : an attempt to attain a certain condition (made a ~ at discipline) 4 : false show : **PRETEXT** *< a ~ of objectivity* — **pre-tension** \pri'-ten-chən\ *n*

**pre-ten-tious** \pri'-ten-chəs\ *adj* 1 : making or possessing usu. unjustified claims (as to excellence) *< a ~ literary style* 2 : making demands on one's ability or means : AMBITIOUS (as to ~ an undertaking) — **pre-ten-tiously** *adv* — **pre-ten-tious-ness** *n*

**pre-ter-it** or **pre-er-ite** \pri'-tē-rēt\ *n* : a verb form expressing action in the past

**pre-term** \(\pri'-tēr'm, 'pri'-\ *adj* : of, relating to, being, or brought forth by premature birth *< a ~ infant*

**pre-ter-nat-u-ral** \pri'-tēr'-nā-chə-rəl\ *adj* 1 : exceeding what is natural (as in stamina) 2 : inexplicable by ordinary means — **pre-ter-nat-u-ral-ly** *adv*

**pre-text** \pri'-tekst\ *n* : a purpose stated or assumed to cloak the real intention or state of affairs

**pre-tif-fy** \pri'-ti-fī\ *vb* **-fied**; **-fy-ing** : to make pretty — **pre-ti-fi-ca-tion** \pri'-ti-fā'-kā-shən\ *n*

**pre-tiy** \pri'-tē, adj **pre-ti-er**; **-est** [ME *praty*, *prety*, fr. OE *prættig* tricky, fr. *prætt* trick] 1 : pleasing by delicacy or grace 2 : having conventionally accepted elements of beauty (as flowers) 3 : MISERABLE, TERRIBLE (as a state of affairs) 4 : moderately large (as a profit) 5 : PLEASANT — usu. used in negative constructions (the truth was not so ~)

◆ **Synonyms** COMELY, FAIR, BEAUTIFUL, ATTRACTIVE, LOVELY — **pre-ti-ful**, \'-tā-lē\ *adv* — **pre-ti-ness** \'-tē-nəs\ *n*

**2 pretty** *adv* : in some degree : MODERATELY; *also* : QUITE, MAINLY

**3 pretty** *vb* **pre-ti-ied**; **pre-ti-ing** : to make pretty — usu. used with *up*

**pretty boy** *n* : a man who is notably good-looking

**pre-tzel** \pri'-zəl\ *n* [G *Brezel*, ultim. fr. L *brachiatu-s* having branches like arms, fr. *brachium* arm] : a brittle or chewy glazed usu. salted slender bread often shaped like a loose knot

**price-less** \'-ləs\ *adj* : having a value beyond any price : INVALUABLE ◆ **Synonyms** PRECIOUS, COSTLY, EXPENSIVE

**price support** *n* : artificial maintenance of prices of a commodity at a level usu. fixed through government action

**price war** *n* : a period of commercial competition in which prices are repeatedly cut by the competitors

**pricey** *also* **pricy** \pri'-sē\ *adj* **pric-i-er**; **-est** : EXPENSIVE (as need)

**prick** \pri'k\ *n* 1 : a mark or small wound made by a pointed instrument 2 : something sharp or pointed 3 : an instance of pricking; *also* : a sensation of being pricked

**2 prick** *vb* 1 : to pierce slightly with a sharp point; *also* : to have or cause a pricking sensation 2 : to affect with anguish or remorse (as his conscience) 3 : to outline with punctures (as out a pattern) 4 : to stand or cause to stand erect (as the dog's ears *~ed* up at the sound) ◆ **Synonyms** PUNCH, PUNCTURE, PERFORATE, BORE, DRILL

**prick-er** \pri'-kor\ *n* : BRIAR; *also* : THORN

**prick-le** \pri'-kəl\ *n* 1 : a small sharp process (as on a plant) 2 : a slight stinging pain — **prick-ly** \pri'-klē\ *adj*

from going) — **pre-vent-able** also **pre-vent-ible** \'-ven-tə-bəl\ *adj* — **pre-ven-ta-tive** \'-ven-tə-tiv\ *adj* or *n* — **pre-ven-tion** \'-ven-chən\ *n* — **pre-ven-tive** \'-ven-tiv\ *adj* or *n*

**pre-ver-bal** \pri'-vər-bəl\ *adj* : having not yet acquired the faculty of speech

**pre-view** \pri'-vyü\ *vb* : to see or discuss beforehand; *esp* : to view or show in advance of public presentation

**2 preview** *n* 1 : FORETASTE 2 : an advance showing or viewing 3 *also* **pre-vue** \'-vyü\ : a showing of snatches from a motion picture advertised for future appearance

**pre-vi-ous** \pri'-vē-əs\ *adj* : going before : EARLIER, FORMER ◆ **Synonyms** FOREGOING, PRIOR, PRECEDING, ANTECEDENT — **pre-vi-ous-ly** *adv*

**pre-vi-sion** \pri'-vi-zhən\ *n* 1 : FORESIGHT, PRESCIENCE 2 : FORECAST, PREDICTION (as of success)

**pre-war** \pri'-wör\ *adj* : occurring or existing before a war

**1 prey** \pri'p\ *n, pl* **prey** *also* **preys** 1 : an animal taken for food by a predator; *also* : VICTIM 2 : the act or habit of preying

**2 prey** *vb* 1 : to raid for booty 2 : to seize and devour prey 3 : to have a harmful or wearing effect

**prf abbr** proof

**price** \pri's\ *n* 1 *archaic* : VALUE 2 : the amount of money paid or asked for the sale of a specified thing; *also* : the cost at which something is obtained

**price** *vb* **priced**; **pric-ing** 1 : to set a price on 2 : to ask the price of 3 : to drive by raising prices (as *priced* themselves out of the market)

**price-fix-ing** \pri'-fik-siŋ\ *n* : the setting of prices artificially (as by producers or government)

**price-less** \'-ləs\ *adj* : having a value beyond any price : INVALUABLE ◆ **Synonyms** PRECIOUS, COSTLY, EXPENSIVE

**price support** *n* : artificial maintenance of prices of a commodity at a level usu. fixed through government action

**price war** *n* : a period of commercial competition in which prices are repeatedly cut by the competitors

**pricey** *also* **pricy** \pri'-sē\ *adj* **pric-i-er**; **-est** : EXPENSIVE (as need)

**prick** \pri'k\ *n* 1 : a mark or small wound made by a pointed instrument 2 : something sharp or pointed 3 : an instance of pricking; *also* : a sensation of being pricked

**2 prick** *vb* 1 : to pierce slightly with a sharp point; *also* : to have or cause a pricking sensation 2 : to affect with anguish or remorse (as his conscience) 3 : to outline with punctures (as out a pattern) 4 : to stand or cause to stand erect (as the dog's ears *~ed* up at the sound) ◆ **Synonyms** PUNCH, PUNCTURE, PERFORATE, BORE, DRILL

**prick-er** \pri'-kor\ *n* : BRIAR; *also* : THORN

**prick-le** \pri'-kəl\ *n* 1 : a small sharp process (as on a plant) 2 : a slight stinging pain — **prick-ly** \pri'-klē\ *adj*

# Merriam- Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

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EDITION



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### A GENUINE MERRIAM-WEBSTER

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**crim con** abbr criminal conversation

**crime** *'krim' n* [ME, fr. AF, fr. L *crimen* accusation, reproach, crime; prob. akin to L *cernere* to sift, determine] (14c) 1 : an act or the commission of an act that is forbidden or the omission of a duty that is commanded by a public law and that makes the offender liable to punishment by that law; *esp.* a gross violation of law 2 : a grave offense esp. against morality 3 : criminal activity *(efforts to fight ~)* 4 : something reprehensible, foolish, or disgraceful *(it's a ~ to waste good food)* *syn* see OFFENSE — **crime-less** *'ləs' adj*

**crime against humanity** (1945) : atrocity (as extermination or enslavement) that is directed esp. against an entire population or part of a population on specious grounds and without regard to individual guilt or responsibility even on such grounds

**crime against nature** (1828) : SODOMY

**1 crim-i-nal** *'kri-mə-nəl', 'krim-nəl' adj* [ME, fr. AF or LL; AF *criminal*, fr. LL *criminalis*, fr. L *criminis*, *crimen* crime] (15c) 1 : relating to, involving, or being a crime *(~ neglect)* 2 : relating to crime or to the prosecution of suspects in a crime *(~ statistics)* *(brought ~ action)* 3 : guilty of crime; *also* : of or befitting a criminal *(a ~ mind)* 4 : DISGRACEFUL — **crim-i-nal-ly** *adv*

**2 criminal** *n* (ca. 1626) 1 : one who has committed a crime 2 : a person who has been convicted of a crime

**criminal conversation** *n* (1732) : adultery considered as a tort

**criminal court** *n* (1678) : a court that has jurisdiction to try and punish offenders against criminal law

**crim-i-nal-ist** *'kri-mə-nəl-ist' n* (1951) : a specialist in criminalistics

**crim-i-nal-i-tics** *'kri-mə-nəl'-tiks*, *'krim-nə-lis-iks' n pl* but *sing in constr* (1943) : application of scientific techniques in collecting and analyzing physical evidence in criminal cases

**crim-i-nal-i-ty** *'kri-mə-nə-la-tē' n* (1611) 1 : the quality or state of being criminal 2 : criminal activity *(urban ~)*

**crim-i-nal-ize** *'kri-mə-nəl-īz', 'krim-nə-liz' vt -ized; -izing* (ca. 1956) : to make illegal : OUTLAW; *also* : to turn into a criminal or treat as criminal — **crim-i-nal-i-za-tion** *'kri-mə-nəl-ə-zā-shən*, *'krim-nə-lə-zā-shən' n*

**criminal law** *n* (1769) : the law of crimes and their punishments

**criminal lawyer** *n* (1869) : a lawyer who specializes in criminal law; *esp.* : a lawyer who represents defendants in criminal cases

**crim-i-nate** *'kri-mə-nāt', 'krim-nāt' vt -nated; -nat-ing* [L *criminatus*, pp. of *criminari*, fr. *criminis*, *crimen* accusation] (1645) : INCRIMINATE — **crim-i-na-tion** *'kri-mə-nā-shən' n*

**crimini var of CREMINI**

**crim-i-nol-o-gy** *'kri-mə-nəl-ə-jē' n* [It *criminologia*, fr. L *criminis*, *crimen* + It -o- + *logia* -logy] (1882) : the scientific study of crime as a social phenomenon, of criminals, and of penal treatment — **crim-i-no-log-i-cal** *'mə-nəl-ə-jik' adj* — **crim-i-no-log-i-cal-ly** *'kri-mə-nəl-ə-lē' adv* — **crim-i-no-log-i-st** *'kri-mə-nəl-ə-jist' n*

**crim-i-nous** *'kri-mə-nəs' adj* (15c) : CRIMINAL

**crim-i-ny** *'kri-mə-nē', 'kri-'nēr' [perh. alter. of *jiminy*, *gemini*, mild oath, prob. euphemism for LL *Jesu domine Jesus Lord!*] (1681) — used as a mild oath or to express surprise*

**1 crimp** *'krim' vt* [D or LG *krimpen* to shrivel; akin to MD *crampe* hook, cramp] (1712) 1 : to cause to become wavy, bent, or pinched: as a : to form (leather) into a desired shape b : to give (synthetic fibers) a curl or wave like that of natural fibers c : to pinch or press together (as the margins of a pie crust) in order to seal 2 : to be an inhibiting or restraining influence on : CRAMP [sales had been ~ed by credit controls — *Time*] — **crimper** *'krim-pər' n*

**2 crimp** *n* (1863) 1 : something produced by or as if by crimping: as a : a section of hair artificially waved or curled b : a succession of waves (as in wool fiber) c : a bend or crease formed in something 2 : something that cramps or inhibits : RESTRAINT, CURB

**3 crimp** *n* [perh. fr. 'crimp'] (1758) : a person who entraps or forces men into shipping as sailors or into enlisting in an army or navy

**4 crimp** *vt* (1812) : to trap into military or sea service : IMPRESS

**crimpy** *'krim-pē' adj* **crimp-i-er**; **-est** (1888) : FRIZZY

**1 crim-son** *'krim-zən' n* [ME *crimisn*, fr. OSp *cremesin*, fr. Ar *girmizi*, fr. *girmiz* kermes] (15c) : any of several deep purplish reds

**2 crimson** *adj* (15c) : of the color crimson

**3 crimson** *vt* (1601) : to make crimson ~ vi : to become crimson; *esp.* : BLUSH

**crimson clover** *n* (1839) : an annual European clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*) that has cylindrical heads of crimson flowers and is cultivated in the U.S. *esp.* as a cover crop

**1 cringe** *'kring' vi* **cringed**; **cring-ing** [ME *crengen*; akin to OE *cringan* to yield, MHG *krank* weak] (13c) 1 : to draw in or contract one's muscles involuntarily (as from cold or pain) 2 : to shrink in fear or servility 3 : to behave in an excessively humble or servile way 4 : to recoil in distaste *(Americans cringed . . . at the use of a term now regarded as a slur —William Safire)* — *syn* see FAWN — **cringer** *n*

**2 cringe** *n* (1597) : a cringing act; *specif.* : a servile bow

**crin-gle** *'kriŋ-gəl' n* [LG *kringel*, dim. of *kring* ring] (1627) : a loop or grommet at the corner of a sail to which a line is attached

**1 crin-kle** *'kriŋ-kəl' vb* **crin-kled**; **crin-klings** *'kriŋ-kliŋz' n* [ME *creynken*; akin to OE *crengan* to yield] *vi* (14c) 1 a : to form many short bends or ripples b : WRINKLE 2 : to give forth a thin crackling sound : RUSTLE *(crinkling silks) ~ vi* : to cause to crinkle : make crinkles in

**2 crinkle** *n* (1596) 1 : WRINKLE, CORRUGATION, PUCKER 2 : any of several virus diseases of plants marked by crinkling of leaves — **crink-ly** *'kriŋ-kə-lē' adj*

**crin-oid** *'kri-ñōid' n* [ultim. fr. Gk *krinon* lily] (1847) : any of a large class (Crinoidea) of echinoderms usu. having a somewhat cup-shaped body with five or more feathery arms — *compare FEATHER STAR, SEA LILY* — **crinoid** *adj*

**crin-o-line** *'kri-ñō-lēn' n* [Fr. fr. It *crinolino*, fr. L *linum* — more at CREST] (1830) 1 : an open-weave fabric of horsehair or cotton that is usu. stiffened and used esp. for interlinings and millinery 2 : a full stiff skirt or underskirt made of crinoline

**crin-o-lined** *'kri-ñō-lēd' adj*

**cri-o-lio** *'kri-ō-lē(-yō), 'lō(-yō) n, pl -lios* [Sp — more at CREOLE] (1604) 1 a : a person of pure Spanish descent born in Spanish America b : a person born and usu. raised in a Spanish-American country 2 : a domestic animal of a breed or strain (as of cattle) developed in Latin America; *esp.* often *cap* : any of a breed of hardy muscular ponies orig. developed in Argentina — **criollo** *adj*

**crip-ple** *'kri-pəl' n* [ME *cripel*, fr. OE *creypel*; akin to OE *crēpan* to creep — more at CREEP] (bef. 12c) 1 a sometimes offensive : a lame or partly disabled person or animal b : one that is disabled or deficient in a specified manner *(a social ~)* 2 : something flawed or imperfect

**cripple** *adj* (13c) : being lame, flawed, or imperfect

**cripple** *vt* **crip-pled**; **crip-pling** *'kri-pəl-ɪŋ' (14c) 1 : to deprive of the use of limb and esp. a leg *(the accident left him crippled)* 2 : to deprive of capability for service or of strength, efficiency, or wholeness *(an economy crippled by inflation)* — *syn* see MAIM, WEAKEN — **crippler** *'kri-pəl-ər' n* 1 : **crip-pling-ly** *'kri-pəl-ɪŋ-lē' adv**

**cri-sis** *'kri-sēs' n*, pl **cri-sis** *'kri-sēz' n* [ME, fr. L, fr. Gk *krisis*, lit., decision, fr. *krinein* to decide — more at CERTAIN] (15c) 1 a : the turning point for better or worse in an acute disease or fever b : a paroxysmal attack of pain, distress, or disordered function c : an emotionally significant event or radical change of status in a person's life *(a midlife ~)* 2 : the decisive moment (as in a literary plot) 3 a : an unstable or crucial time or state of affairs in which a decisive change is impending; *esp.* : one with the distinct possibility of a highly undesirable outcome *(a financial ~)* b : a situation that has reached a critical phase *(the environmental ~)* — *syn* see JUNCTURE

**1 crisp** *'krisp' adj* [ME, fr. L *crispus*; akin to W *cruch* curly] (bef. 12c) 1 : CURLY, WAVY; *also* : having close stiff or wiry curls or waves 2 a : easily crumbled : BRITTLE *(~ cracker)* b : desirably firm and crunchy *(~ lettuce)* 3 a : notably sharp, clean-cut, and clear *(~ illustration)*; *also* : concise and to the point *(a ~ reply)* b : noticeably neat *(~ new clothes)* c : BRISK, LIVELY *(a ~ tale of intrigue)* *(~ musical temp)* d : briskly cold *(~ winter weather)*; *also* : FRESH, INVIGORATING *(~ autumn air)* *(a ~ white wine)* e : deftly and powerfully executed *(a ~ tennis serve)* — *syn* see FRAGILE — **crisp-ly** *adv* — **crisp-ness** *n*

**2 crisp** *vt* (14c) 1 : CURL, CRIMP 2 : to cause to ripple : WRINKLE 3 : to make or keep crisp ~ vi 1 : CURL 2 : RIPPLE 3 : to become crisp

**3 crisp** *n* (14c) 1 a : something crisp or brittle *(burned to a ~)* *(rye ~)* b chiefly Brit : POTATO CHIP — usu. used in pl. 2 : a baked dessert of fruit with crumb topping *(apple ~)*

**crisp-bread** *'krisp-bred' n* (ca. 1927) : a plain dry unsweetened cracker made from crushed grain (as wheat or rye)

**crisp-en** *'kris-pən' vt* (1931) : to make crisp ~ vi : to become crisp

**crisper** *'kris-pər' n* (1835) : one that crisps; *specif.* : a closed container in a refrigerator intended to prevent loss of moisture from fresh produce

**crisp-head** *'krisp-hed' n* (1966) : ICEBERG LETTUCE

**crispy** *'kris-pē' adj* **crisp-i-er**; **-est** (14c) 1 : CRISP 1 *(~ hair)* 2 : appealingly crunchy : CRISP *(~ fried chicken)* — **crisp-i-ness** *n*

**1 criss-cross** *'kris-, krōs' vb* [obs. *christcross*, *crisscross* mark of a cross] *v* (1818) 1 : to mark with intersecting lines 2 : to pass back and forth through or over ~ vi 1 : to go or pass back and forth 2 : OVERLAP, INTERSECT

**2 crisscross** *adj* (1840) : marked or characterized by crisscrossing — **crisscross** *adv*

**3 crisscross** *n* (1833) 1 : a crisscross pattern : NETWORK 2 : the state of being at cross-purposes; *also* : a confused state

**cris-ta** *'kris-tə' n, pl cris-tae* *'kri-tē, -tē, -tē' [NL, fr. L, crest — more at CREST]* (1959) : any of the inwardly projecting folds of the inner membrane of a mitochondrion

**crit abbr critical**

**crit-e-ri-on** *'kri-tē-rē-ən also krah'-ən, pl -ria* *'kri-tē-ən, -ri-ən* [Gk *krītērion*, fr. *krinein* to judge, decide — more at CERTAIN] (1622) 1 : a standard on which a judgment or decision may be based 2 : a characterizing mark or trait — *syn* see STANDARD

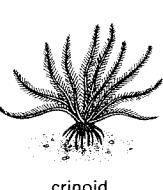
**usage** The plural *criteria* has been used as a singular for over half a century *(let me now return to the third *criteria* —R. M. Nixon)* *(that really is the *criteria* —Bert Lance)* Many of our examples, like the two foregoing, are taken from speech. But singular *criteria* is not uncommon in edited prose, and its use both in speech and writing seems to be increasing. Only time will tell whether it will reach the unquestioned acceptability of *agenda*.

**cri-te-ri-um** *'kri-tir-ē-əm, krah'-ərē-əm' n* [If *critérium* competition, lit., criterion, fr. LL *criterium*, fr. Gk *krītērion*] (1970) : a bicycle race of a specified number of laps on a closed course over public roads closed to normal traffic

**1 critic** *'kri-tik' n* [L *criticus*, fr. Gk *kritikos*, fr. *krītikos* able to discern or judge, fr. *krinein*] (1588) 1 a : one who expresses a reasoned opinion on any matter esp. involving a judgment of its value, truth, righteousness, beauty, or technique b : one who engages often professionally in the analysis, evaluation, or appreciation of works of art or artistic performances 2 : one given to harsh or captious judgment

**2 critic** *n* [Gk *kritikē* art of the critic, fr. fem. of *kritikos*] (1651) 1 *archaic* : CRITICISM 2 *archaic* : CRITIQUE

**crit-i-cal** *'kri-ti-kəl' adj* (1547) 1 a : of, relating to, or being a turning point or specially important juncture *(a ~ phase)*; as (1) : relating to or being the stage of a disease at which an abrupt change for better or worse may be expected; *also* : being or relating to an illness or condition involving danger of death *(a ~ care)* *(a patient listed in ~ condition)* (2) : relating to or being a state in which or a measurement of point at which some quality, property, or phenomenon suffers a definite change *(a ~ temperature)* b : CRUCIAL, DECISIVE *(a ~ test)* c : INDISPENSABLE, VITAL *(a ~ waterfowl habitat)* *(a component ~ to the operation of a machine)* d : being in or approaching a state of crisis *(a ~ shortage)* *(a ~ situation)* 2 a : inclined to criticize severely and unfavorably b : consisting of or involving criticism *(~ writings)* *(~ story)* c : exercising or involving careful judgment or judicious evaluation *(a ~ recommendation)* *(a ~ edition)* 3 a : of sufficient size to sustain a chain



forming a particular structure or tissue in the normal course of development (as *retina*) — **pre-sump-tive-ly** *adv*

**pre-sump-tu-ous** \pri-'zəm(p)-cha-wəs, -chəs, -shəs\ *adj* [ME, fr. AF *presumptuous*, fr. LL *praesumptuosus*, irreg. fr. *praesumptio*] (14c) 1: overstepping due bounds (as of propriety or courtesy) : taking liberties — **pre-sump-tu-ous-ly** *adv* — **pre-sump-tu-ous-ness** *n*

**pre-sup-pose** \prē-sə-pōz\ *vt* [ME, fr. MF *presupposer*, fr. ML *praesupponere* (perf. indic. *praesuppositi*), fr. L *prae-* + ML *supponere* to suppose — more at *SUPPOSE*] (15c) 1: to suppose beforehand 2: to require as an antecedent in logic or fact — **pre-sup-po-si-tion** \prē-sə-pōz-shən\ *n*

**pre-syn-ap-tic** \prē-sə-nap-tik\ *adj* (1937) : of, occurring in, or being a neuron by which a nerve impulse is conveyed to a synapse (as *membrane*) <a ~ neuron> — **pre-syn-ap-ti-cal-ly** \ti-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*

**prêt-à-por-ter** or **pret-à-por-ter** \prēt-ä-pôr-tä\ *n* [F, ready to wear] (1959) : ready-to-wear clothes

**pre-teen** \prē-tēn, -tēn\ *n* (1952) : a boy or girl not yet 13 years old

**preteen** *adj* (1954) 1: relating to or produced for children esp. in the 9 to 12 year-old age group (as *fashions*) 2: being younger than 13

**pre-teen-age-er** \prē-tē-nä-jär\ *n* (1965) : PRETEEN

**pre-tend** \pri-tēnd\ *vt* [ME, fr. AF *pretendre*, fr. L *praetendere* to allege as an excuse, lit., to stretch out, fr. *prae-* + *tendere* to stretch — more at *THIN*] (15c) 1: to give a false appearance of being, possessing, or performing (does not ~ to be a psychiatrist) 2 *a*: to make believe : FEIGN (he ~ed deafness) *b*: to claim, represent, or assert falsely (as ~ing an emotion he could not really feel) 3 *archaic*: VENTURE, UNDERTAKE ~ *vi* 1: to feign an action, part, or role esp. in play 2: to put in a claim (cannot ~ to any particular expertise —Clive Barnes) *syn* see ASSUME

**pretend** *adj* (1911) 1: IMAGINARY, MAKE-BELIEVE (had a ~ pal with whom he talked) 2: not genuine : MOCK (as pearls) 3: being a nonfunctional imitation (as ~ train for the children to play in)

**pre-tend-ed** \pri-tēnd-dəd\ *adj* (15c) : professed or avowed but not genuine (as ~ affection) — **pre-tend-ed-ly** *adv*

**pre-tend-er** \pri-tēnd-ər\ *n* (1609) : one that pretends: as *a*: one who lays claim to something; *specif*: a claimant to a throne who is held to have no just title *b*: one who makes a false or hypocritical show

**pre-tense** or **pre-tence** \prē-tēn(t)s, pri-'n\ *n* [ME, prob. modif. of ML *pretensio*, irreg. fr. L *praetendere*] (15c) 1: a claim made or implied; esp: one not supported by fact 2 *a*: mere ostentation : PRETENTIOUSNESS (confuse dignity with pomposity and ~ —Bennett Cerf) *b*: a pretentious act or assertion 3: an inadequate or insincere attempt to attain a certain condition or quality 4: professed rather than real intention or purpose : PRETEXT (was there under false ~s) 5: MAKE-BELIEVE, FICTION 6: false show : SIMULATION (saw through his ~ of indifference)

**pre-tension** \pri-tēn(t)-shən\ *n* (15c) 1: an allegation of doubtful value : PRETEXT 2: a claim or an effort to establish a claim 3: a claim or right to attention or honor because of merit 4: an aspiration or intention that may or may not reach fulfillment (has serious literary ~s) 5: VANITY, PRETENTIOUSNESS *syn* see AMBITION — **pre-tension-less** \-ləs\ *adj*

**pre-tension** \pri-tēn(t)-shən\ *vt* [ME *pre-tēn* + *tension*] (1937) : PRESTRESS

**pre-tentious** \pri-tēn(t)-shəs\ *adj* [F *prétentieux*, fr. *pré-tention* pretension, fr. ML *pretention-*, *pretentio*, fr. L *praetendere*] (1832) 1: characterized by pretension: as *a*: making usu. unjustified or excessive claims (as of value or standing) (the ~ fraud who assumes a love of culture that is alien to him —Richard Watts) *b*: expressive of affected, unwarranted, or exaggerated importance, worth, or stature (as ~ language) (as ~ houses) 2: making demands on one's skill, ability, or means : AMBITIOUS (the ~ daring of the Green Mountain Boys in crossing the lake —Amer. Guide Series: *Vt.*) *syn* see SHOWY — **pre-tentious-ly** *adv* — **pre-tentious-ness** *n*

**pre-ter-er-it** or **pre-ter-ete** \pri-tēr-ət\ *adj* [ME *preterit*, fr. AF, fr. L *praeteritus*, fr. pp. of *praeterire* to go by, pass, fr. *praeter* beyond, past, by (fr. compar. of *prae* before) + *ire* to go — more at FOR, ISSUE] (14c) *archaic* : BYGONE, FORMER

**preterit** or **preterite** *n* (14c) : PAST TENSE

**pre-term** \pri-prē-tərm, 'pri-'\ *adj* (1928) : of, relating to, being, or brought forth by premature birth (as ~ infant) (as ~ labor)

**pre-ter-mi-nal** \pri-prē-tərm-nəl, -'tar-məl\ *adj* (1947) : occurring or being in the period prior to death (as ~ cancer) (as ~ patient)

**pre-ter-mis-sion** \pri-tər-'mī-shən\ *n* [L *praeternission-*, *praetermissio*, fr. *praeternimere*] (1583) : the act or an instance of pretermitting : OMISION

**pre-ter-mit** \-mit\ *vt* -*mit-ted*; -*mit-ting* [L *praeternimere*, fr. *praeter* by, past + *mittere* to let go, send] (1513) 1: to leave undone : NEGLECT 2: to let pass without mention or notice : OMIT 3: to suspend indefinitely (the grand jury voted to ~ the case)

**pre-ter-nat-u-ral** \pri-tər-'nā-chə-rəl, -'nach-rəl\ *adj* [ML *praeternaturalis*, fr. L *praeter naturam* beyond nature] (1580) 1: existing outside of nature 2: exceeding what is natural or regular : EXTRAORDINARY (wits trained to ~ acuteness by the debates —G. L. Dickinson) 3: inexplicable by ordinary means; esp: PSYCHIC (as ~ phenomena) — **pre-ter-nat-u-ral-ly** \-'nā-chə-rə-lē, 'nach-rə, 'nā-chər-\ *adv* — **pre-ter-nat-u-ral-ness** \-'nā-chə-rəl-nəs, -'nach-rəl-\ *n*

**pre-test** \pri-test\ *n* (1926) : a preliminary test: as *a*: a test of the effectiveness or safety of a product prior to its sale *b*: a test to evaluate the preparedness of students for further studies — **pre-test** \(\), pri-prē-'test\ *n*

**pre-text** \pri-prē-,tekst\ *n* [L *praetextus*, fr. *praetexere* to assign as a pretext, screen, extend in front, fr. *prae-* + *texere* to weave — more at TECHNICAL] (1513) : a purpose or motive alleged or an appearance assumed in order to cloak the real intention or state of affairs *syn* see APOLOGY

**pre-text-ing** \pri-prē-,tek-stiŋ\ *n* (1992) : the practice of presenting oneself as someone else in order to obtain private information

**pretor**, **pretorian** *var* of PRAETOR, PRAETORIAN

**pret-tif-ly** \pri-tə-fi-,lī, 'pär-, 'prū-\ *adv* -*fled*; -*fy-ing* (1850) : to make pretty — **pre-tif-ic-a-tion** \pri-tə-fə-kā-shən, ,pär-, ,prū-\ *n* — **pre-tif-er** \pri-tə-fər, 'fī-(ə), 'pär-, 'prū-\ *n* — **pre-tif-ness** \pri-tē-nəs, ,pär-, ,prū-\ *n* (1617) 1: the quality or state of being pretty 2: something pretty

**pretty** \pri-tē, 'pär-, 'prū-\ *adj* *var* of PRETTY, PRET-*er* (as *prae* before, fr. *prae* before, fr.

OE *prættig* tricky, fr. *prætt* trick; akin to ON *pretr* trick] (bef. 12c) 1 *a*: ARTFUL, CLEVER *b*: PAT, APT 2 *a*: pleasing by delicacy or grace *b*: having conventionally accepted elements of beauty *c*: appearing or sounding pleasant or nice but lacking strength, force, manliness, purpose, or intensity (as words that make no sense —Elizabeth B. Browning) 3 *a*: MISERABLE, TERRIBLE (as a ~ mess you've gotten us into) *b*: **chiefly Scot**: STOUT 4: moderately large : CONSIDERABLE (as very ~ profit) (cost a ~ penny) 5: easy to enjoy : PLEASANT — usu. used in negative constructions (reality is not so ~ —Caleb Semon) *syn* see BEAUTIFUL — **pretti-ly** \-tə-lē\ *adv* — **pretti-ly** \-tē-shəd\ *adv*

**prett-ty** \pri-tē, 'pär- also 'prū-; before "near(ly)" often 'pərt or 'prit or 'prūt\ *adv* (1565) 1 *a*: in some degree : MODERATELY (as ~ cold weather) *b*: QUITE, MAINLY (the wound was . . . ~ bad —Walt Whitman) 2: in a pretty manner : PRETTILY (pop vocalists who can sing ~ —Gerald Levitch) — **pretty much**: MAINLY, LARGELY

**usage** Some handbooks say that *pretty* is overworked and recommend using a more specific word or restricting *pretty* to informal or colloquial contexts. *Pretty* is used to tone down a statement and is in wide use in all forms of English. It is common in informal speech and writing but is neither rare nor wrong in serious discourse (he may, if he be *pretty* well off or clever, qualify himself as a doctor —G. B. Shaw) (as return to those traditions of American foreign policy which worked *pretty* well for over a century —H. S. Commager) (the arguments for buying expensive books have to be *pretty* cogent —Times Lit. Supp.)

**prett-ty** \pri-tē, 'pär- also 'prū-\ *n*, pl. **pretties** (1736) 1 *pl*: dainty clothes; esp: LINGERIE 2: a pretty person or thing

**prett-ty** *same as* 3 *vt* **prett-tied**; **prett-ty-ing** (1909) : to make pretty — usu. used with *up* (curtains to ~ up the room)

**pretty boy** *n* (1885) : a man who is notably good-looking; also: DANDY

**pre-tzel** \pri-tzəl\ *n* [G *Brezel*, ultim. fr. L *brachiatus* having branches like arms, fr. *brachium* arm — more at BRACE] (ca. 1838) : a brittle or chewy glazed usu. salted slender bread often shaped like a loose knot

**prev abbr** previous; previously

**pre-vail** \pri-väl\ *vi* [ME, fr. L *praevalere*, fr. *pra-* pre- + *valere* to be strong — more at WIELD] (15c) 1: to gain ascendancy through strength or superiority : TRIUMPH 2: to be or become effective or effectual 3: to use persuasion successfully (as ~ed on him to sing) 4: to be frequent : PREDOMINATE (the west winds that ~ in the mountains) 5: to be or continue in use or fashion : PERSIST (a custom that still ~s)

**preva-lence** \pri-və-ləns\ *n* (1713) 1: the quality or state of being prevalent 2: the degree to which something is prevalent; esp: the percentage of a population that is affected with a particular disease at a given time

**preva-lent** \-lənt\ *adj* [L *praevalent*, *praevalens* very powerful, fr. *praevalere*] (1576) 1 *archaic* : POWERFUL 2: being in ascendancy : DOMINANT 3: generally or widely accepted, practiced, or favored : WIDESPREAD — **preva-lent-ly** *adv*

**pre-var-i-ate** \pri-var-ə-tāt, -kāt, 'va-rə-\ *vi* -*cat-ed*; -*cat-ing* [L *prævaricatus*, pp. of *prævaricari* to act in collusion, lit. to straddle, fr. *præ-* + *varicare* to straddle, fr. *varus* bowlegged] (ca. 1631) : to deviate from the truth : EQUIVOCATE *syn* see LIE — **pre-var-i-ati-on**, *n* — *va-kā-shən*, 'va-rə-\ *n* — **pre-var-i-ca-tor** \-'ver-ə-,kā-tər, 'va-rə-\ *n*

**pre-ve-nient** \pri-vē-nənt\ *adj* [L *prævenient*, *præveniens*, pp. of *prævenire*] (ca. 1656) : ANTECEDENT, ANTICIPATORY — **pre-ve-nent** *ly* *adv*

**pre-vent** \pri-vēnt\ *vb* [ME, to anticipate, fr. L *praeventus*, pp. of *prævenire* to come before, anticipate, forestall, fr. *pra-* + *venire* to come — more at COME] *vt* (15c) 1 *archaic* *a*: to be in readiness for (as an occasion) *b*: to meet or satisfy in advance *c*: to act ahead of *d*: to go or arrive before 2: to deprive of power or hope of acting or succeeding 3: to keep from happening or existing (steps to ~ war) 4: to hold or keep back : HINDER, STOP — often used with *from* *e*: to interpose an obstacle — **pre-vent-abil-ity** \-'ven-tə-bil-tē\ *n* — **pre-vent-able** also **pre-vent-ible** \-'ven-tə-bəl\ *adv* — **pre-vent-er** *n* — **syn** PREVENT, ANTICIPATE, FORESTALL mean to deal with beforehand. PREVENT implies taking advance measures against something possible or probable (measures taken to *prevent* leaks). ANTICIPATE may imply merely getting ahead of another by being a precursor or forerunner or it may imply checking another's intention by acting first (anticipated the question by making a statement). FORESTALL implies a getting ahead so as to stop or interrupt something in its course (hoped to *forestill* the sale).

**pre-ven-ta-tive** \-'ven-tə-tiv\ *adj* or *n* (ca. 1666) : PREVENTIVE

**pre-ven-tion** \pri-ven(t)-shən\ *n* (1582) : the act of preventing or hindering

**pre-ven-tive** \-'ven-tiv\ *n* (ca. 1639) : something that prevents: as something used to prevent disease

**preventive** *adj* (ca. 1626) : devoted to or concerned with prevention : PRECAUTIONARY (as steps against soil erosion): as *a*: designed or serving to prevent the occurrence of disease (as ~ medical care) *b*: undertaken to forestall anticipated hostile action (as a ~ coup) — **pre-ven-tive-ly** *adv* — **pre-ven-tive-ness** *n*

**pre-ver-bal** \pri-prē-,vər-bal\ *adj* (1921) 1: occurring before the verb 2: having not yet acquired the faculty of speech (as a ~ child)

**pre-view** \pri-,vü\ *vt* (1607) 1: to see beforehand; *specif*: to view or to show in advance of public presentation 2: to give a preliminary survey of — **pre-view-er** \-'vü-ər\ *n*

**preview** *n* (1882) 1: an advance statement, sample, or survey 2: an advance showing or performance (as of a motion picture or play) 3: *also pre-vue* \-'vü\ *n*: a showing of clips from a motion picture advertised for appearance in the near future — called also trailer

**pre-vi-ous** \pri-vē-əs\ *adj* [L *prævius* leading the way, fr. *præ-* *via* way — more at WAY] (1625) 1: going before in time or order : PRIOR 2: acting too soon : PREMATURE (somewhat ~ in his conclusion) *syn* see PRECEDING — **pre-vi-ous-ly** *adv* — **pre-vi-ous-ness** *n*

**previous question** *n* (ca. 1715) : a parliamentary motion to put the pending question to an immediate vote without further debate or amendment that if defeated has the effect of permitting resumption of debate

**previous to** *adv* (1998) : PRIOR TO, PREVIOUS TO

# THE PENGUIN ENGLISH DICTIONARY

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*Consultant Editor*  
Robert Allen



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swallowed a bead — Dickens. **3** archaic to confine or restrain (a person, etc): *But now I am cabined, cribbed, confined, bound in* — Shakespeare. ➤ **verb intrans** **1** to copy from a crib or from a classmate, etc. **2** Brit, dated to grumble: *She's out half the time and doesn't answer the telephone, and when I start cribbing she just laughs* — L P Hartley. ➤ **cribber noun**.

**cribbage** /'kribij/ **noun** a card game for two to four players who each try to form various counting combinations of cards. [prob from CRIB<sup>1</sup>]

**crib-bitting noun** a habit that some horses have of gnawing at the woodwork in their stable, slobbering, salivating, and sucking in air.

**crib death noun** NAm = COT DEATH.

**cribriform** /'kribrifawm/ **adj** denoting an anatomical structure that is pierced with small holes, e.g. for the passage of nerves: *a cribriform plate*. [Latin *cribrum* sieve + -FORM]

**cribwork noun** the timber framework used in constructing foundations, etc; = CRIB<sup>1</sup> (II).

**crick<sup>1</sup>** /'krik/ **noun** a painful spasmodic condition of the muscles of the neck, back, etc. [Middle English *cryk*; earlier history unknown]

**crick<sup>2</sup> verb trans** to cause a crick in (the neck, etc).

**cricket<sup>1</sup>** /'krikit/ **noun** a game played with a bat and ball on a large field with two wickets near its centre by two sides of eleven players each who try to score runs by hitting the ball and running between the wickets. \* **not cricket** Brit, informal against the dictates of fair play; not honourable. ➤ **cricketer noun**. [French *criquet* stake used as goal in a bowling game]

**cricket<sup>2</sup> noun** any of numerous species of leaping insects noted for the chirping sounds produced by the male: family Gryllidae. [Middle English *criket* from early French *criquet*, of imitative origin]

**cricoid** /'krikoɪd/ **adj** denoting the ring-shaped cartilage of the larynx. [via scientific Latin from Greek *krikoidēs* ring-shaped, from *krikos* ring + -OID]

**cri de cœur** /kree də 'kuh/ **noun** (pl **cris de cœur** /kree/) a passionate plea or protest. [French *cri de cœur* cry from the heart]

**cried** /kried/ **verb** past tense and past part. of CRY<sup>1</sup>.

**crier** /'krie-ə/ **noun** an officer who makes announcements in a court.

**crikey** /'krieki/ **interj** chiefly Brit, dated used to express surprise. [euphemism for CHRIST<sup>2</sup>]

**crime** /kriem/ **noun** **1** violation of law, or an instance of this, punishable by the state: *Petty laws breed great crimes* — Ouida. **2** a grave offence, esp against morality. **3** criminal activity: *victims of crime*. **4** informal something deplorable, foolish, or disgraceful: *It's a crime to waste good food*. [Middle English from Latin *crimen* accusation, fault, crime]

**crime passionnel** /'kreem pasyo'nel/ **noun** (pl **crimes passionnels** /'kreem pasyo'nel/) a crime, usu murder, prompted by sexual jealousy. [French *crime passionnel* crime of passion]

**crime writer noun** a writer of detective fiction or thrillers.

**crimin- or crimino-** **comb. form** forming words, denoting: crime or criminals. [Latin *crimin-, crimen* accusation, offence]

**criminal<sup>1</sup>** /'kriminl/ **adj** **1** involving or constituting a crime: *criminal negligence*. **2** relating to crime or its punishment: *criminal law*. **3** guilty of crime: *the criminal classes; the criminal mind*. **4** informal disgraceful; deplorable: *a criminal waste of money*. ➤ **criminality** /'-nalit/ **noun**, **criminally** **adv**. [Middle English via French from late Latin *criminalis*, from Latin *crimin-, crimen* CRIME]

**criminal<sup>2</sup> noun** a person who has committed or been convicted of a crime.

**criminal conversation noun** a former legal term for adultery, esp as constituting grounds for the husband's recovery of damages from the wife's adulterous partner.

**criminalize or criminalise** **verb trans** **1** to make (an activity) illegal. **2** to outlaw the activities of (a person) and so turn them into a criminal.

**criminal law noun** the law relating to crimes and their punishments.

**crimino-** **comb. form** see CRIMIN-.

**criminogenic** /'kriminoh'jenik/ **adj** likely to lead to criminal behaviour: *the question of whether television violence is or is not criminogenic; Corporate crime can be linked to criminogenic factors associated with upward mobility*.

**criminology** /'krimin'olədʒi/ **noun** the study of crime, criminals, and penal treatment. ➤ **criminological** /'-lojikl/ **adj**, **criminologist noun**.

**crimp<sup>1</sup>** /'krimp/ **verb trans** **1** to make (the hair) wavy or curly. **2** to roll or curl the edge of (a steel panel, etc). **3** to pinch or press (material) together in order to seal or join it. **4** NAm, informal to hinder or hamper (a person or operation): *research crimped by a lack of funding*. ➤ **crimper noun**. [Dutch or Low German *krimpen* to shrivel]

**crimp<sup>2</sup> noun** **1** a rolled, folded, or compressed edge. **2** a tight curl or wave in the hair.

**Crimplene** /'krimpleen/ **noun** trademark a textured continuous-filament polyester yarn. [prob from CRIMP<sup>2</sup> + -lene as in TERYLENE]

**crimson<sup>1</sup>** /'krimz(ə)n/ **adj** of a deep purplish red colour. ➤ **crimson** **noun**. [Middle English *criniisin* via Old Spanish *cremesin* from Arabic *qirmizi*, from *qirmiz* KERMES]

**crimson<sup>2</sup> verb** (**crimsoned, crimsoning**) ➤ **verb intrans** literary **1** to become crimson: *The sky crimsoned towards the west*. **2** to blush: *She crimsoned when he kissed her*. ➤ **verb trans** to make (something) crimson.

**cringe<sup>1</sup>** /'krinj/ **verb intrans** **1** to shrink or cower in fear. **2** to adopt a cowering posture expressive of humility. **3** (often + to) to behave with fawning self-abasement: *It is not my nature, sir, to cringe to any man* — Conan Doyle; *The elder advanced with a cringing smile* — Somerset Maugham. **4** to feel acute embarrassment. [Middle English *crengen*, of Germanic origin]

**cringe<sup>2</sup> noun** the act or an instance of cringing.

**cringeworthy adj** informal embarrassingly awful: *cringeworthy lyrics*.

**cringle** /'kring-gl/ **noun** an eyelet or loop worked into the edge of a sail for attaching a rope. [Low German *kringel*, dimin. of *kring* ring; related to Old English *cradol* CRADLE<sup>1</sup>]

**crinkle<sup>1</sup>** /'kringkl/ **verb intrans** **1** to wrinkle. **2** to rustle. ➤ **verb trans** to cause (something) to crinkle. [Middle English *crynecelen*, of Germanic origin]

**crinkle<sup>2</sup> noun** a wrinkle. ➤ **crinkly adj**.

**crinoid** /'kriənɔɪd/ **noun** any of a large class of echinoderms having a cup-shaped body with five or more feathery arms: class Crinoidea. ➤ **crinoid adj, crinoidal** /'-nɔɪdl/ **adj**. [Latin class name, from Greek *krinō* lily + -OID]

**crinoline** /'krinalin/ **noun** a full skirt as worn by women in the 19th cent., or a padded or hoopied petticoat supporting it. [French *crinoline* from Latin *crinolino*, from *crino* horsehair (from Latin *crinis* hair) + *lino* flax, linen, from Latin *linum*]

**criollo** /'krioh(ə)yoh/ **noun** (pl **criollos**) **1** a person born and usu raised in S America; esp one of Spanish descent. **2** a domestic animal of a breed or strain developed in Latin America; esp a breed of strong hardy horses developed in Argentina. ➤ **criollo adj**. [Spanish *criollo*: see CREOLE]

**cripes** /'krieps/ **interj** informal, dated an expression of surprise or dismay. [euphemism for CHRIST<sup>2</sup>]

**cripple<sup>1</sup>** /'kripəl/ **noun** **1** offensive a lame or partly disabled person. **2** a person who is impaired in a non-physical way: *an emotional cripple*. [Old English *cripel*; related to Old English *creōpan* CREEP<sup>1</sup>]

**cripple<sup>2</sup> verb trans** **1** to disable (somebody) physically. **2** to impair (a person) mentally, emotionally, etc. **3** to hamper or severely limit (a person, operation, etc).

**crisis** /'kriesis/ **noun** (pl **crises** /'krieseez/) **1** a time of acute difficulty or danger, esp on a national or international scale: *The Cuban missile crisis of 1962*. **2a** the turning point for better or worse in an acute disease, e.g. pneumonia. **b** a sudden attack of pain, distress, etc. [via Latin from Greek *krisis* decision, from *krinein* to decide]

**crisp<sup>1</sup>** /'krisp/ **adj** **1a** easily crumbled; brittle. **b** desirably firm and fresh: *a crisp apple; crisp lettuce leaves*. **c** newly made or prepared: *a crisp pound note*. **d** said of curly hair: strong and wiry. **2** sharp, clean-cut, and clear: *a crisp illustration*. **3** decisive; sharp: *a crisp manner*. **4** said of the weather: briskly cold; fresh; esp frosty. ➤ **crisply adv, crispness noun**. [Old English *crisp* curled, from Latin *crispus*]

**crisp<sup>2</sup> noun** Brit a thin slice of flavoured or salted fried potato, usu eaten cold: *a packet of crisps*.

**crisp<sup>3</sup> verb trans** **1** to make or keep (food) crisp: *Crisp the bread in the oven*. **2** archaic to curl or crimp (hair). ➤ **verb intrans** to become crisp: *Allow the breadcrumbs time to crisp under the grill*.

**crispate** /'krispeɪt, -pit/ **adj** said e.g. of leaves: having a wavy or undulating edge.

**crispbread** **noun** a plain dry unsweetened biscuit made from crushed grain, e.g. rye.

**crisper** **noun** a compartment at the bottom of a refrigerator for keeping vegetables, esp salad vegetables, fresh.

**crispin** /'krispin/ **noun** a sweet eating apple of Japanese origin with a greenish yellow skin.

**crispy** **adj** (**crispier, crispest**) **1** firm and fresh. **2** made crisp by deep frying: *crispy noodles*. ➤ **crispiness noun**.

**crisscross<sup>1</sup>** /'kriskros/ **noun** a crisscrossed pattern. [obsolete *christcross* Christ's cross, from the cross symbol traditionally printed before the alphabet on children's hornbooks]

**crisscross<sup>2</sup> adj** marked or characterized by a crisscrossing pattern or network.

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**energy** energy

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**origin**

**pretty**<sup>3</sup> *verb trans* (**pretties**, **prettied**, **pretying**) *informal* (*usu + up*) to make (something or somebody) pretty: *We need some nice curtains to pretty up the room.*

**pretty**<sup>4</sup> *noun* (*pl* **pretties**) *archaic* a pretty person or thing, *esp* a dear or pretty child or young woman.

**pretty-pretty** *adj* pretty in an insipid or inappropriate way.

**pretzel** /'pretsl/ *noun* a brittle glazed and salted biscuit typically having the form of a loose knot. [German *Pretzel*, perhaps derived ultimately from Latin *brachius* having branches like arms, from *brachium*, *bracchium* arm]

**prevail** /'pri:vayl/ *verb intrans* **1** (*often + against/over*) to gain a victory or the ascendancy through strength or superiority; to triumph. **2** (*+ on/upon/with*) to persuade somebody successfully: *She finally prevailed on him to sing.* **3** to be frequent; to predominate: *The west winds that prevail in the mountains.* **4** to be or continue in use or fashion; to persist: *a custom that still prevails.* [Middle English *prevailen* from Latin *praevalere*, from *PRAE-* + *valere* to be strong]

**prevailing** *adj* **1** most frequently occurring: *prevailing winds.* **2** currently widespread or predominant: *the prevailing fashion.* »» **prevailingly** *adv.*

**prevalent** /'prevalənt/ *adj* **1** generally or widely occurring or existing; widespread. **2** *archaic* predominant. »» **prevalence** *noun*, **prevalently** *adv.* [Latin *praevale-*, *praevalens* very powerful, present part. of *praevalere*: see PREVAIL]

**prevaricate** /'pri:varikayt/ *verb intrans* to speak or act evasively so as to hide the truth; to equivocate. »» **prevarication** /'-kaysh(ə)n/ *noun*, **prevaricator** *noun*. [Latin *praevericari*, past part. of *praevericari* to walk crookedly, from *PRAE-* + *varicare* to straddle]

**Usage note** *prevaricate* or *procrastinate*? These words are close in meaning and therefore likely to be confused. However, there is a difference: *to prevaricate* is to dither or be evasive whereas *to procrastinate* is to put something off until tomorrow (literally or metaphorically). You will get no decision from a person who prevaricates, but with a little patience you will get one from a person who procrastinates. Of course, some people find ways of doing both.

**prevenient** /'pri'veenyaɪnt, -ni-ənt/ *adj* formal antecedent; preceding. »» **preveniently** *adv.* [Latin *praevenient-*, *praeviens*, present part. of *praeveni*: see PREVENT]

**prevent** /'pri:vent/ *verb trans* **1** to stop (something) from happening or existing: *Both sides took steps to prevent war.* **2** (*often + from*) to hold or keep (somebody or something) back; to stop (somebody or something) from doing something: *There's nothing to prevent you from going alone.* »» **preventability** /'-bili:t/ *noun*, **preventable** *adj*, **preventer** *noun*, **preventible** *adj*, **prevention** /'-sh(ə)n/ *noun*. [Middle English *preventen* to anticipate, from Latin *praeventus*, past part. of *praeverire* to come before, anticipate, forestall, from *PRAE-* + *venire* to come]

**preventative**<sup>1</sup> /'pri:ventətɪv/ *adj* = PREVENTIVE<sup>1</sup>.

**preventative**<sup>2</sup> *noun* = PREVENTIVE<sup>2</sup>.

**preventive**<sup>1</sup> /'pri:ventɪv/ *adj* **1** intended or serving to prevent something: *preventive medicine.* **2** undertaken to forestall an anticipated hostile action: *a preventive strike.* »» **preventively** *adv*, **preventiveness** *noun*.

**preventive**<sup>2</sup> *noun* something that prevents something, *esp* a drug or treatment that prevents disease.

**preview**<sup>1</sup> /'preevyoo/ *verb trans* **1** to view or show (e.g. a film or exhibition) in advance of public presentation. **2** to describe or report on (events, films, programmes, etc) that are to be presented in the near future.

**preview**<sup>2</sup> *noun* **1** an advance viewing, showing, or performance, e.g. of a film or exhibition. **2** a brief survey of something that is to come, *esp* a description of coming events or entertainments. **3** *chiefly NAmE* a film or television trailer.

**previous** /'preevi:əs/ *adj* **1** going before in time or order: *The previous occupants left the flat in a dreadful state.* **2** *informal* acting too soon; premature: *She was a bit previous when she said she'd got the job.* \* **previous to** before; prior to. »» **previously** *adv*, **previousness** *noun*. [Latin *praevius* leading the way, from *PRAE-* + *via* way]

**previse** /'pri:viz/ *verb trans* *archaic* or *literary* to foresee or forecast (something). »» **prevision** /'pre:vɪzh(ə)n/ *noun*. [Latin *praevisus*, past part. of *praevidere* to foresee, from *PRAE-* + *videre* to see]

**prevue** /'preevyoo/ *noun* = PREVIEW<sup>2</sup> (3).

**prewar** /'pre:waw/ *adj* denoting the period preceding a war, *esp* World War I or II.

**pre-wash**<sup>1</sup> *noun* a preliminary wash before the main wash, *esp* in an automatic washing machine.

**pre-wash**<sup>2</sup> *verb trans* to give a pre-wash to (clothes, etc).

**prey**<sup>1</sup> /'preɪ/ *verb* *intrans* **1a** (*often + on/upon*) to seize and devour prey: *Kestrels prey on mice.* **b** (*often + on/upon*) to live by extortion, deceit, or exerting undue influence: *Confidence tricksters prey on elderly women.* **2** (*+ on/upon*) to have a continuously oppressive or distressing effect: *There are a number of problems preying on my mind.* **3** (*usu + on/upon*) to make raids for booty: *Pirates preyed on the coast.* »» **preyer** /'prayər/ *noun*. [Middle English *preyen* via Old French from Latin *praedari*, from *praeda* PREY<sup>1</sup>]

**prezzie** or **pressie** /'prezi/ *noun* *informal* a present. [by alteration from PRESENT<sup>1</sup>]

**priapic** /'pri:apɪk, prie'apɪk/ *adj* = PHALLIC. [Latin *priapus* lecher, from *Priapus*, god of male generative power, from Greek *Priapos*]

**priapism** /'pri:əpɪz(ə)m/ *noun* continuous, abnormal, and often painful erection of the penis.

**price**<sup>1</sup> /'pri:s/ *noun* **1** the amount, *esp* of money, that is demanded by a seller of something or paid by a buyer. **2** something sacrificed or lost in order to achieve an objective. **3a** an amount sufficient for a bribe: *Every man has his price.* **b** a reward for the catching or killing of a criminal or outlaw. **4** the odds in betting. **5** *archaic* value; worth: *Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies — Bible.* \* **at any price** whatever the cost, effort, sacrifice, etc required. **at a price** paying a high price or at a heavy cost in terms of loss, sacrifice, etc. **what price ... ?** **1** what are the chances of ... ? **2** what has become of ... ? [Middle English *pris* via Old French from Latin *pretium* price, money]

**price**<sup>2</sup> *verb trans* **1** to set a price for (something). **2** to find out the price of (something). \* **price oneself out of the market** to sell things at a higher price than most buyers are willing to pay. »» **pricer** *noun*.

**price-cutting** *noun* the practice of reducing prices, *esp* to a level designed to undermine competition.

**price-earnings ratio** *noun* a measure of the value of ordinary shares (shares in the equity capital of a business; see ORDINARY SHARE) determined as the ratio of their market price to their earnings per share.

**price-fixing** *noun* the practice of fixing the price of a product by agreement between its suppliers.

**price index** *noun* a number used to indicate changes in the level of prices from one period to another. It shows the level of the prices of a group of commodities relative to their level during an arbitrarily chosen base period. »» **price indexing** *noun*.

**priceless** *adj* **1** having a value that is too great to be calculated; invaluable. **2** *informal* particularly amusing or absurd: *She told me this priceless story.*

**price ring** *noun* a group of traders acting in agreement to maintain prices.

**price-sensitive** *adj* **1** highly responsive to changes in price: *price-sensitive consumers.* **2** likely to affect the price of something, *esp* stocks and shares: *price-sensitive information.*

**price tag** *noun* **1** a label on merchandise showing the price at which it is offered for sale. **2** price or cost: *The council was asked to put a price tag on the new nursery school.*

**price war** *noun* a period of commercial competition characterized by the repeated cutting of prices below those of competitors.

**pricey** or **pricy** *adj* (PRICIER, PRICEST) *chiefly Brit, informal* expensive.

**prick**<sup>1</sup> /'prɪk/ *verb trans* **1** to pierce (somebody or something) slightly with a sharp point. **2** to puncture (something). **3** to affect (somebody) with sorrow or remorse: *His conscience began to prick him.* **4** (*often + out*) to mark or outline (something) with punctured holes or dots. **5** (*often + up*) said of an animal: to raise (its ears) so that they stand erect. **6** (*usu + out*) to transplant (seedlings) from the place where they germinate to a more permanent position, e.g. in a flower bed. »» **verb intrans** **1** to prick something or cause a pricking sensation. **2** to feel discomfort as if from being pricked. \* **prick up one's ears** to start to listen intently. »» **pricker** *noun*. [Old English *prica*]

**prick**<sup>2</sup> *noun* **1** the act of pricking something or the sensation of being pricked. **2a** a pointed instrument, weapon, etc. **b** a mark or shallow hole made by a pointed instrument. **3** a nagging or sharp feeling of sorrow or remorse. **4** *coarse slang* the penis. **5** *coarse slang* a disagreeable or contemptible person. \* **kick against the pricks** to harm oneself in a vain attempt to oppose or resist something. \* with reference to an ox or horse kicking when goaded or spurred: the metaphorical use is from Acts 9:5, where Saul on the road to Damascus hears the words 'I am Jesus whom thou persecute: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.']

**pricket** /'prɪkit/ *noun* **1** a spike on which a candle is stuck. **2** a buck, *esp* a male fallow deer, two years old. [Middle English *priket* from *prikke* PRICK<sup>2</sup>; (sense 2) prob. from the straightness of its horns]



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3 *verb trans.* Twist, bend; wrinkle; ripple; crimp (the hair). **M19.**

G. GREENE An expression of glee crinkled the man's face.

W. BOYD The fishponds . . . were crinkled by a breeze.

4 *verb intrans.* Make sharp rustling or crackling sounds. **M19.**

**crinkle-crinkle** /'krɪŋk(ə)lkrɪŋk(ə)l/ *noun, adjective, & adverb.* Chiefly *dial.* **L16.**

[ORIGIN Redupl. of **CRANKE** *noun*, partly after **CRINKLE** *noun*. Cf. **CRINKUM-CRANKUM**.]

► **A** *noun.* A zigzag; something zigzag. **L16.**

► **B** *adjective & adverb.* (Twisting) in and out; zigzag. **M19.**

†**crinkum** *noun. slang.* Also **grincome**. **E17-L19.**

[ORIGIN Unknown.]

sing. & (usu.) in *pl.* Venereal disease; syphilis.

**crinkum-crankum** /'krɪŋkəm'krəŋkəm/ *noun & adjective.* **M17.**

[ORIGIN Fanciful redupl. of **CRANK** *noun*<sup>1</sup>, *noun*<sup>2</sup>; cf. **CRANKUM-CRANKLE**.]

► **A** *noun.* An intricate or convoluted thing; an elaborate device. Also, a crooked course (*lit.* & *fig.*) deviousness. **M17.**

► **B** *adjective.* Intricate, convoluted, elaborate. **L18.**

**crinoid** /'krɪnɔɪd/ *noun & adjective.* **M19.**

[ORIGIN Greek *krinoidēs* adjective, lily-like, from *krinon* lily; see -OID.]

► **A** *noun.* Any echinoderm of the class Crinoidea, members of which are characterized by cup-shaped bodies and usu. branched arms, and include sea-lilies, feather stars, and many fossil forms. **M19.**

► **B** *adjective.* Of or pertaining to the Crinoidea. **M19.**

■ **cri noidal** *adjective* of or pertaining to crinoids **M19.**

**crinoline** /'krɪnəlɪn/ *noun & adjective.* **M19.**

[ORIGIN French, *irreg.* from Latin *crinis* hair (French **CRIN**) + *linum* thread (French *lin* flax).]

► **A** *noun.* 1 A stiff fabric made of horsehair and cotton or linen thread, used for linings, hats, etc., and formerly for skirts and to expand a petticoat. **M19.**

2 *hist.* A stiff petticoat, orig. of this fabric, worn under a skirt to support or distend it; hence, a hooped petticoat. **M19.**

3 *hist.* A netting fitted round warships as a defence against torpedoes. **L19.**

► **B** *attrib.* or as *adjective.* Made of crinoline. **M19.**

■ **crinolined** *adjective* wearing (a) crinoline **M19.**

**crinosity** /'krɪnəsɪtɪ/ *noun, rare.* **M17.**

[ORIGIN from Latin *crinis* hair; see -OSITY.]

Hairiness.

**crio-** /'kri:ə/ *combining form* of Greek *krīos* ram; see -O-.

■ **criosphinx** *noun* a sphinx having a ram's head **M19.**

**criollo** /'krɪ'ləʊ/ *noun & adjective.* Also **C-**. Pl. of noun -OS.

**L19.**

[ORIGIN Spanish = native to the locality; see **CREOLE**.]

1 (Designating or pertaining to) a native of Spanish South or Central America, esp. one of pure Spanish descent. **L19.**

2 (Designating) a cacao tree of a variety producing thin-shelled beans of high quality. **E20.**

3 (Designating) any of various South or Central American breeds of domestic animal, esp. a small horse bred from South American and Arab stock, or cattle of Spanish ancestry. **M20.**

**crip** /'krip/ *noun.* N. Amer. *slang* (offensive). **E20.**

[ORIGIN Abbreviation of **CRIPPLE** *noun & adjective*.]

A disabled person.

**cripes** /'krɪps/ *interjection. slang.* **E20.**

[ORIGIN Alt. of **CHRIST**.]

Expr. astonishment.

**cripple** /'krɪp(ə)l/ *noun & adjective.*

[ORIGIN Old English (Northumbrian) *cryfel* = Old Low German *krūfel*, & Old English *crefel* = Middle Low German, Middle Dutch *krēfel*, from Germanic: cogn. with **CREEP** *verb*.]

► **A** *noun* 1 A person (permanently) impaired in movement by an injury or defect, esp. one unable to walk normally. Now regarded as *offensive*. **OE.**

D. MURPHY My mother returned . . . as a complete cripple, unable to walk from the sitting-room to the downstairs lavatory, or to wash or dress herself, or to brush her hair.

2 *transf. & fig.* a A sixpence. Cf. **BENDER** 4. *arch. slang.* **L18.**

► **b** A maimed or lamed animal or bird, esp. a game bird. **M19.**

► **c** A person (permanently) impaired or deficient in some other way, specified or understood. **E20.**

► **d** A vehicle, ship, etc., that is unfit to proceed or for service. **E20.**

► **e** Times There would still be the emotional and psychological cripples among our children.

3 *sing. & in pl.* A crippling disease of cattle. *dial. & Austral.* **L19.**

► **II** 4 A low opening in a wall. Chiefly in proper name **Criplegate**. **ME.**

5 A swamp or low-lying tract of land overgrown with trees or shrubs. *US.* **L17.**

► **B** *adjective.* Crippled; obsolete exc. *dial. ME.*

SHAKES. Hen. V And chide the cripple tardy-gaited night Who like a foul and ugly wither'd limb So tediously away.

■ **crippledom, cripplehood** *nouns* the condition of being a cripple. **M19.**

**cripple** /'krɪp(ə)l/ *verb, ME.*

[ORIGIN from the noun.]

1 *verb trans.* Cause (a person) to become unable to walk or move properly. **ME.**

► **b** *transf. & fig.* Disable, impair; have a severe adverse effect on. **L17.**

G. GREENE A local farmer who had been crippled as a boy, losing his right arm in an accident. **b** L. OLIPHANT The trade . . . is crippled by the difficulty of transport. A. TORFLER Lack of an education will cripple a child's chance in the world of tomorrow.

2 *verb intrans.* Hobble; walk lamely. Now chiefly *Scot. ME.*

■ **crippled** *adjective* unable to walk, move, or (*transf.*) operate properly (now regarded as *offensive* when used of persons). **ME.**

**crippler** *noun* (a) a person who or thing which cripples; (b) *slang* something astonishingly good. **M17.**

**crippling** *adjective* (a) that which cripples; (b) *slang* astonishingly good; (c) *slang* **cripplingly** *adverb* so as to cripple or disable; to a crippling extent. **L19.**

†**Cris** *noun & adjective* see **CREE**.

**cris de cœur** *noun phr. pl. of* **CRIS DE CŒUR**.

**crise** /'krɪz/ *noun.* Pl. pronounced same. **LME.**

[ORIGIN French.]

= **CRISIS**.

**crise de conscience** /də'kɔ̃sje/ a crisis of conscience. **crise de nerfs** /də'nɛf/ (= of nerves) a fit of hysterics.

— **NOTE.** Formerly fully naturalized.

**crisis** /'krɪsɪs/ *noun.* Pl. **crises** /'krɪsɪzɪz/; (*rare*) **crises**. **LME.**

[ORIGIN Medical Latin from Greek *krīsis* decision, judgement, event, issue, turning point of a disease, from *krīnein* decide.]

1 The turning point of a disease. **LME.**

2 **ASTROLOGY.** A conjunction of the planets determining the issue of a disease or a critical point in the course of events. **L16-M17.**

3 *gen.* A turning point, a vitally important or decisive stage; a time of trouble, danger, or suspense in politics, commerce, etc., or in personal life. **E17.**

J. GALSWORTHY When his son-in-law . . . had that financial crisis, due to speculation in Oil Shares, James made himself ill worrying over it. E. ROOSEVELT The threat of war was just over the horizon and no one else had the prestige and the knowledge to carry on through a crisis. M. HOLROYD She coped with crises ranging from burst hot-water bottles to outbreaks of measles. J. CRITCHLEY What the aliens call 'a crisis of identity'.

*mid-life crisis*: see *MID-LIFE* *adjective*.

†4 A judgement, a decision. **E17-E18.**

†5 A criterion; a token. **E-M17.**

— **COMB.:** **crisis management** the action or practice of taking managerial action only when a crisis has developed.

**crisp** /'krɪsp/ *noun. ME.*

[ORIGIN App. from the adjective: cf. **CRAPE** *noun & adjective*, **CRÈPE** *noun & adjective*.]

1 A light fabric like crêpe; a head covering or veil made of this. **ME-E17.**

2 A crisp kind of pastry. Only in **LME.**

3 A curl (of hair); esp. a short or close curl. **M-L17.**

4 The crackling of roast pork. Now *dial.* **L17.**

5 A thing overdone by roasting etc. Orig. *US.* **M19.**

**burn to a crisp** make inedible or useless by burning.

6 More fully **potato crisp**. A thin fried slice of potato eaten as a snack. *Usu.* in *pl.* Cf. **CHIP** *noun* 3. **E20.**

7 A crisp piece of pastry or chocolate. **L20.**

**crisp** /'krɪsp/ *adjective. OE.*

[ORIGIN Latin *crispus* curled. Branch II may result from symbolic interpretation of the sound of the word.]

► **I** 1 Of hair: curly; now esp. stiff and closely curling, frizzy. Also, having such hair. **OE.**

► **II** 2 Of fabric: crinkly, like crêpe. Only in **ME.**

3 *gen.* Having a crinkled or rippled surface. *arch. LME.*

4 **BOTANY.** Having a crinkled or wavy edge. **crispate. M18.**

► **II** 5 Hard or firm but fragile; brittle. **M16.**

J. M. NEALE When the snow lay round about, Deep and crisp and even. F. KING As crisp as a dead leaf.

**crispbread** a thin crisp biscuit of crushed rye etc.

6 *transf. & fig.* Stiff, not limp; neat, clearly defined; decisive in manner, brisk. **E19.**

WILKIE COLLINS Such a crisp touch on the piano. T. DREISER A gift . . . for making crisp and cynical remarks. S. J. PERELMAN Her crisp white nurse's uniform. P. V. PRICE The crisp, almost bitterly dry white wine. A. N. WILSON The crisp creases of his trouser knees.

7 Of the air, of a day as regards atmosphere, etc.: frosty; bracing. **M19.**

► **III** 1 *verb trans.* & *intrans.* make or become (more) crisp. **M20.**

**crispish** *adjective* somewhat crisp. **M20.**

**crisply** *adverb* **E19.**

**crispness** *noun. LME.*

**crisp** /'krɪsp/ *verb. ME.*

[ORIGIN from the adjective. Cf. Latin *crispare*.]

1 *verb trans.* Crimp, crinkle. **ME.**

2 *verb intrans.* Curl in short stiff folds or waves. **E16.**

3 *verb trans.* Make crisp (**CRISP** *adjective* II). **E17.**

4 *verb intrans.* Become crisp (**CRISP** *adjective* II). **E19.**

## crinkle-crankle | criterion

■ **crisper** *noun* a person who or thing which crisps or curls; esp. a container or compartment in a refrigerator for keeping salads etc. crisp and fresh. **M19.**

**crispate** /'krɪspɪte/ *adjective. M19.*

[ORIGIN Latin *crispatus* pa. pp. of *crispare* curl; see -ATE<sup>2</sup>.]

Crisped; spec. in **BOTANY & ZOOLOGY**, having a crinkled or wavy edge.

**crispation** /'krɪspɪtʃən/ *noun.* Now *rare.* **E17.**

[ORIGIN Latin *crispatus* pa. pp. of *crispare* curl; see -ATION.]

1 (A) curled condition; curliness; (an) undulation. **E17.**

2 A slight contraction of a muscle etc. or of the skin, as in gooseflesh. **E18.**

**crispature** /'krɪspətʃər/ *noun. rare.* **M18.**

[ORIGIN formed as **CRISPATION**; see -URE.]

(A) crisp or curled condition.

**crispin** /'krɪspɪn/ *noun. arch.* Also **C-**. **E18.**

[ORIGIN Patron saint of shoemakers.]

(A name given to) a shoemaker.

**crispy** /'krɪspi/ *adjective. LME.*

[ORIGIN from **CRISP** *adjective* + -Y.]

1 Curly, wavy, crinkly. **LME.**

W. MORRIS His crispy hair of gold.

2 Crisp, brittle. **E17.**

B. W. ADISS They ate chow mein, sweet and sour pork and crispy noodles.

■ **crispiness** *noun. L17.*

**criss-cross** /'krɪskrɒs/ *noun, adjective, & adverb.* Also **crisscross**. **E17.**

[ORIGIN Reduced form of **CHRIST-CROSS**, latterly treated as redupl. of **CROSS** *noun*.]

► **A** *noun.* 1 = **CHRIST-CROSS**. Now arch. & *dial.* exc. *hist.* **E17.**

2 A crossing of lines, currents, etc.; a network of crossing lines. **L19.**

3 The state of being at cross purposes. **E20.**

► **B** *adjective.* In crossing lines; marked by crossings or intersections. **M19.**

► **C** *adverb.* Crosswise; at cross purposes. **L19.**

**criss-cross** /'krɪskrɒs/ *verb trans. & intrans.* Also **crisscross**. **E19.**

[ORIGIN from **CRISS-CROSS** *noun, adjective, & adverb.*]

Mark or work with a criss-cross pattern; move crosswise; cross or intersect repeatedly.

B. HINES Hundreds of knife cuts had criss-crossed the surface into tiny geometrical figures. E. CRISPON Power-lines . . . criss-crossing one another at all angles. S. SONTAG The metaphoric uses of TB and cancer crisscross and overlap.

**crissum** /'krɪs(ə)m/ *noun. L19.*

[ORIGIN mod. Latin, from *crissare* move the haunches.]

**ORNITHOLOGY.** The region of the vent of a bird, including the under-tail coverts.

■ **crissal** *adjective* of or pertaining to the crissum; **crissal thrasher**, a brown N. & Central American thrasher, *Toxostoma dorsale*, with rufous under-tail coverts: **L19.**

**crista** /'krɪstə/ *noun. Pl. -stæs /-sti:z/. M19.*

[ORIGIN Latin: see **CREST** *noun*.]

Chiefly **ANATOMY & ZOOLOGY.** A ridge, a crest.

**cristate** /'krɪstət/ *adjective. M17.*

[ORIGIN Latin *cristatus*, formed as **CRISTA**; see -ATE<sup>2</sup>.]

Chiefly **ANATOMY & ZOOLOGY.** Crested; having the form of a crest or ridge.

■ Also **cristated** *adjective* (now *rare*) **E18.**

**cristobalite** /'krɪstəbəlɪt/ *noun. L19.*

[ORIGIN from Cerro San Cristóbal, a locality in Mexico; see -ITE<sup>1</sup>.]

**MINERALOGY.** A variety of silica of which there is a stable high-temperature cubic form and a metastable low-temperature tetragonal form, and which occurs as massive deposits (e.g. in opal) and as small usu. octahedral crystals.

**crit** /'krɪt/ *noun. colloq.* Also **crit.** (point). **M18.**

[ORIGIN Abbreviation.]

1 A critic. Only in **M18.**

2 (Literary, textual, etc.) criticism; a critique. **E20.**

lit. crit.: see *lit.* *adjective.*

3 Critical mass. **M20.**

**criteria** *noun pl.* of **CRITERION**.

**critiology** /'krɪtiəlɔ:gɪ/ *noun.* **L19.**

[ORIGIN from **CRITERION**; see -OLOGY.]

The study or analysis of criteria; the branch of logic that deals with criteria.

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# Shorter Oxford English Dictionary

ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES

*Sixth edition*

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**pretext** /pri:tɛkst/ *noun.* E16.

[ORIGIN Latin *praetextus* outward display, from *praetext-* pa. ppl. stem of *praetexte* weave in front, border, disguise, from *prae-* + *texere* weave. Cf. French *prétexte*.]

A reason put forward to conceal the real purpose or object; an ostensible motive of action; an excuse, a pretext.

W. TREVOR She had written the letter herself as a pretext to gain admittance.

on the **pretext** of, under the **pretext** of claiming as one's object or motive.

— NOTE: Formerly stressed on 2nd syll.

■ **pretextual** /pri:tɛkstʃʊəl/ *adjective* of the nature of a pretext; **pretextual arrest** (US law), an arrest for a minor offence, made in order to investigate the arrestee for a more serious offence. M19.

**pretext** /pri:tɛkst/ *verb trans.* E17.

[ORIGIN French *prétexter*, from *prétexte* PRETEXT *noun.*]

Use as a pretext; allege as an excuse; pretend.

W. S. MAUGHAM Pretexting an appointment... he left.

**pretene** /pri:tən/ *noun.* L19.

[ORIGIN from PRE- 2 + TONE *noun.*]

PHONOLOGY. The syllable or vowel preceding a stressed syllable.

■ **pretonic** *adjective & noun* (a) *adjective* occurring immediately before a stressed syllable; (b) *noun* = PRETONE. M19. **pre tonically** *adverb* as regards a pretone M20.

**pretor** *noun*, **pretorial** *adjective & noun*, **pretorian** *adjective & noun*, etc., vars. of **praetor** etc.**pretrial** /pri:tɪərɪəl/ *noun*; as *adjective* pri:tɪərɪəl/ *noun & adjective*. M20.

[ORIGIN from PRE- 1, 2 + TRIAL *noun.*]

► A *noun*. A preliminary hearing before a trial. US. M20.

► B *adjective*. Of or pertaining to the period before a trial. M20.

**prettify** /pri:tɪfaɪ/ *verb trans.* M19.

[ORIGIN from PRETTY *adjective* + -FY.]

Make pretty; represent prettily in a painting or in writing; spec. make pretty in an affected or superficial way.

M. AMIS The good champagne, the prettified canapés. *Independent* Rundown areas of Camden... have been prettified into small parks.

■ **prettification** *noun* E20. **prettifier** *noun* M20.

**prettily** /pri:tli/ *adverb*. LME.

[ORIGIN from PRETTY *adjective* + -LY.]

1 In a cunning or clever manner; ingeniously, skilfully. LME-E16. ▶b To the point; aptly, neatly. L16-L18.

2 In a way that is pleasing to the eye, the ear, or the aesthetic sense; attractively; charmingly. LME. ▶b Gently, softly, quietly. Now dial. L15.

E. FEINSTEIN It was a modest apartment, but prettily painted.

13 = PRETTY *adverb* 1. M16-M19.

**prettiness** /pri:tɪnɪs/ *noun.* M16.

[ORIGIN from PRETTY *adjective* & noun + -NESS.]

1 Beauty of a delicate, dainty, or diminutive kind, without stateliness. M16.

ALDOUS HUXLEY The prettiness, the cosy sublimities of the Lake District.

12 Pleasantness, agreeableness. E-M17.

3 A thing which is pretty; a pretty act, feature, ornament, etc. M17.

4 Affected or trivial beauty of expression or style in literature, art, etc. Also, an instance of this, a prettyism. M17.

G. B. SHAW I was in no humour to be consoled by elaborate prettinesses from harp and English horn.

**pretty** /pri:tɪ/ *adjective & noun.*

[ORIGIN Old English *prættig* corresp. to Middle Low German *prattich* capricious, overbearing, Middle Dutch (*ghe*)*prtich* brisk, clever, roguish, Dutch *prtig* playful, humorous, from West Germanic base meaning 'trick'; ult. origin unknown.]

► A *adjective*. 1 Orig. cunning, crafty. Later, (of a person) clever, skilful; (of a thing) cleverly made or done; ingenious, artful. arch. OE.

2 a Of a person: excellent or admirable in appearance, manners, or other qualities; spec. (chiefly Scot.) (of a soldier) brave, gallant, warlike. arch. LME. ▶b Of a thing: fine, pleasing, nice; agreeable, proper. M16.

b A. F. DOUGLAS-HOME A master of English... with as pretty and sharp a wit as any politician. iron. W. BLACK Well, young lady... and a pretty mess you have got us into!

3 a Of a person, esp. a woman or child: attractive and pleasing in appearance; beautiful in a delicate, dainty, or diminutive way without stateliness. LME. ▶b Of a thing: pleasing to the eye, the ear, or the aesthetic sense. LME.

a SHAKES. Wint. T. My prettiest Perdita. V. BRITTAINE A pretty young Scotswoman, pink-cheeked... and dewy-eyed.

b G. CATLIN A pretty little town. E. BOWEN A black dress with pretty touches of white.

4 Of a quantity or amount: considerable, great. Now rare. exc. in **pretty packet**, **pretty penny** below. L17.

b but, d dog, f few, g get, h he, j yes, k cat, l leg, m man, n no, p pen, r red, s sit, t top, v van, w we, z zoo, f she, 3 vision, θ thin, δ this, η ring, t chip, dʒ jar

— PHRASES: a **pretty kettle of fish**: see KETTLE 1. (as) **pretty as a picture** extremely pretty, as **pretty as paint**: see PAINT *noun*. **come to a pretty pass**: see PASS *noun*. **not just a pretty face** colloq. intelligent as well as attractive.

— SPECIAL COLLOCATIONS & COMB.: **pretty boy** slang a foppish or effeminate man; a male homosexual; iron. a thug. **pretty-by-night** US = *marvel of Peru* s.v. MARVEL *noun*. **pretty-face (wallaby)** = *whiptail wallaby* s.v. WHIPTAIL *adjective*. **pretty fellow** arch. a fine fellow, a fop. **pretty packet**, **pretty penny** a considerable sum, a good deal of money. **pretty please**: a wheeling form of request.

► B *noun* 1 A pretty thing, an ornament. M18.

J. D. MACDONALD 'Here is a pretty I got for you...' She... gasped at the lovely ring.

2 A pretty man, woman, or child; a pretty one. Chiefly also **my pretty** as a form of address. L18.

GOLDSMITH If you would but comprehend me, my pretty.

3 = **pretty penny** above. US. M19.

G. STRATTON-PORTER I'd give a pretty to know that secret.

4 The fluted or ornamented part of a glass or tumbler. M19.

5 The fairway of a golf course. E20.

■ **prettyish** *adjective* somewhat pretty. M18. **prettyism** *noun* studied prettiness of style or manner; an instance of this: US.

**pretty** /pri:tɪ/ *verb*, *adverb*, *colloq.* M16.

[ORIGIN from the adjective.]

1 *verb refl.* & *intrans.* Make oneself pretty; make or dress oneself up to look attractive. E19.

M. M. ATWATER Prettying up for company.

2 *verb trans.* Make (a thing or person) attractive; iron. spoil, damage. Freq. foll. by up. M20.

Sunday Express They've prettied it up now with hanging baskets and window boxes.

**pretty** /pri:tɪ/ *adverb*, *colloq.* M16.

[ORIGIN from the adjective.]

1 To a considerable extent, considerably; fairly, moderately, tolerably. M16.

H. SECOMBE He was pretty strong for his size. E. LEONARD He'll be home pretty soon.

2 Ingeniously. Only in M17.

3 = PRETTILY 2. L18.

M. EDGEWORTH How pretty behaved he is.

— PHRASES: **pretty much**, **pretty near**, **pretty well** almost, very nearly; approximately. **sitting pretty** colloq. in a comfortable or advantageous position.

**pretty-pretty** /pri:tɪ,pri:tɪ/ *adjective, adverb*, *& noun*. L19.

[ORIGIN Redupl. of PRETTY *adjective* & noun.]

► A *adjective*. Excessively or affectedly pretty; in which the aim of prettiness is overdone. L19.

1. MURDOCH He sometimes did pretty-pretty representations of flowers or animals, of which he felt... mildly ashamed.

► B *adverb*. In a pretty-pretty manner. L19.

► C *noun*. 1 In pl. Pretty things; ornaments, knick-knacks. L19.

2 *the pretty-pretty*, that which is pretty-pretty. E20.

■ **pretty-prettyness** *noun* E20.

**prettyprint** /pri:tɪpri:t/ *verb trans.* L20.

[ORIGIN from PRETTY *adjective* & noun + PRINT *verb.*]

COMPUTING. Print in a way that displays the structure of a program by the use of spacing and indentation.

■ **prettyprinter** *noun* a printer or program for producing prettyprinted text L20.

**pretzel** /pre:tzəl/ *noun*. Also (now rare or obsolete) **bretzel** /bre:tzəl/. M19.

[ORIGIN German.]

A hard salted biscuit usu. in the form of a knot, eaten orig. in Germany.

**preux** /pri:ø/ *adjective*, *l18.*

[ORIGIN French: see PROUD.]

Brave, valiant. Chiefly in **preux chevalier**, gallant knight.

**prevail** /pri:vейl/ *verb*, *adverb*. LME.

[ORIGIN Latin *praevale* have greater power, from *prae* PRE- + *valere* (see VAIL *verb*), with assim. to AVAIL *verb*.]

1 *verb intrans.* Become very strong; gain vigour or force, increase in strength. rare. LME-E18.

2 *verb intrans.* Be superior in strength or influence; have or gain the advantage; be victorious. (Foll. by against, over.) LME.

W. SALMON It... prevails against all cold Diseases of the Head, Brain, Nerves and Womb. A. G. GARDINER In the end the moral law prevails over the law of the flesh. D. LESSING On you go, jolly and optimistic that right will prevail.

3 *verb intrans.* Be effectual or efficacious; succeed. LME.

► b *verb trans.* = **prevail on** below. L15-M19.

4 *verb trans.* & *intrans.* Be of advantage or use (to); = **AVAIL** *verb* 1. LME-E17. ▶b *verb intrans.* & *refl.* Make use of; obtain the benefit of; = **AVAIL** *verb* 2. Only in 17.

5 *verb intrans.* a Be or become the more widespread or more usual; predominate. E17. ▶b Be in general use or practice; be prevalent or current; exist. L18.

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pre-**pretty** \'-prē-tē\ n [redupl. of *pretty*] : a useless ornament : KNICKERACK

**pretty-pretty** \\'adj [redupl. of *pretty*] : aiming at prettiness for its own sake : inane or inappropriately pretty

**pre-tuber-cu-lar** or **pre-tu伯-cu-lar** \\'prē-t̄b̄l̄\ adj [pre- + *tuberular* or *tubercular*] 1 : preceding the development of lesions definitely identifiable as tuberculous 2 : likely to develop tuberculosis (undernourished and ~ children)

**pre-typ-i-ty** \\'prē-t̄p̄-ē-tē\ n [pre- + *typify*] : to typify earlier : PRE-FIGURE

**prez-ze-lé** \\'prēz-zālē\ n -s [G *brezel*, fr. OHG *brezitella*, fr. L *brachiatellum*, ring-shaped bracelet] 1. L *brachiat* having branches like arms (fr. *brachium* arm + -*atus* -ate) + -*ellum* -el; perh. fr. the likeness in shape to a pair of folded arms — more at **BRACE** 2 : a brittle glazed and salted cracker made of a rope of dough typically twisted into a form resembling the letter B

**pre-um-bo-nal** \\'prē-ūm-bō-nāl\ adj [pre- + *umbonal*] : situated before the umbones of a bivalve shell

**preu** \\'prē\ adj [F, fr. OF *prod*, *prud*, *prous* good, capable, valiant — more at **PROUD**] : CHIVALROUS, GALLANT (while one wants on all occasions to do the ~ thing —P.G.Wodehouse)

**preu-cha-val-ier** \\'shā-val-yā\ n [F] : a gallant knight chivalrous fighter

**preu-ah** previous; previously

**preu-ail** \\'prē-ēl\ adj [prob. influenced by ME *wælen* to avail] of *L prævalere* to be more able, prevail, fr. *præ-* + *valere* to be strong — more at **WIELD, VALE**

1 *obs* : to grow strong : increase in vigor 2 : to gain victory by virtue of strength or superiority : win mastery : TRIUMPH — used with or against *hell* of hell shall not ~ against it —Mt 16:18 (AV) (the ungodly o'er the just ~ —Robert Burns) 3 : to be or become effective or effectual : be successful (the temptation to exploit consumers... usually ~ unless it is cursed —T.W.Arnold) 4 : to urge one successfully : succeed in persuading or inducing one — used with *on, upon*, or with *coupl* not ~ with her to dance with him again —Jane Austin (she was ~ upon to sing for the company) 5 *obs* : to prevail (as, for the dead —Christopher Marlowe) 6 : to be or become common or widespread, as by frequent PREDOMINATE (link between obsolescent forms of life and the which generally ~ —Thomas Hardy) 7 : to be or continue in use or fashion : OBTAIN, PERSIST (a custom that still ~s among us) (unable to buy at the prices now ~ing) **syn** see INDUCE

**preu-ail-ance** \\'äl-əns\ n -s [prevail + -ance] : PREVALENCE

**prevail-ing** adj 1 : having superior force or influence : EFFICACIOUS (the ~ doctrine of the age) 2 a : most frequent (windows facing the ~ wind) b : generally current : COMMON (adapted a loose structure of ~ ideas to the needs of his own temperament —M.D.Geismar)

**preu-ail-ing-ness** n [prevail + -ness] : RIFE, CURRENT can apply to what is in general or widespread circulation or to what exists generally, especially in a given place or time; PREVAILING applies to what is predominant or widespread beyond others of its kind or class at a time or place indicated, implicit or assumed to be the *present* (the *prevailing* point of view among farmers) (the *prevailing* tendency to obliterate the dividing lines between all the arts —J.L.Lowes) (the predominant English taste, the *prevailing* English authority, of his time —H.L.Mencken) (anyone acquainted with the literature of the first decade after the war must have noticed a *prevailing* tone of disgust —C.D.Lewis) PREVAILENT applies to what is general or common over a given area at a given time, stressing less than PREVAILING a implicit comparison with other things of the same kind or class (as, the *prevailing* of the classic tradition still *prevailing* in their time —Huntington) (Hartford, *A prevalent* feature in these compositions was a nursed and peremptory melancholy —Mark Twain) (this custom is similar to customs *prevailing* in different parts of Europe —K.D.Uphadhyay) (the disease is most *prevailing* in countries where there are large populations of both sheep and dogs —L.K.Whitten) RIFE adds to PREVAILENT the idea of great abundance or rapid spread by increase (when cutthroat competition was *rife* in most industries —Textbooks in Education) (for slavery of all kinds was *rife* throughout the island —Alan Villiers) (disease was once more *rife* in the herds —Farmer's Weekly (So. Africa)) (literary production is *rife* in Puerto Rico —R.M.Lovett) CURRENT applies especially to something that changes with time and occurs frequently or periodically in the time specified or understood chiefly the present (the *present* voice of racism in the West, however, has really little to do with *current* specific hypotheses —A.J.Towne) (caught in the drift of *current* social thinking —C.A. & Mary Beard) (resisted the temptation to use phrases that are merely *current* usage —L.A.Weigle) **preu-ail-ing-ly** adv : most frequently : most commonly (how far our researches are preferably individual, as they have ~ been —F.N.Robinson)

**preu-ail-ing-ness** n -s : the quality or state of being common, frequent, or predominant

**prevail-ing-west-erlies** n pl : the average or normal westerly wind in the middle latitudes

**prevail-ment** \\'vāl-mēnt\ n -s : power to prevail or dominate : VICTORY

**preu-a-LENCE** \\'prē-ə-lāns\ adj [preu-a-LENCE] \\'nēs\, si-nl, n, pl PREVALENCES also PREVALENCES [prevalence fr. F *prévalence* superiority, fr. LL *prævalentia* greater power, fr. L *prævalens*, *prævalens* (pres. part. of *prævalere* to be more able, prevail) + -ia -y; *frequency* fr. LL *prævalentia*] 1 : the quality, condition, or fact of being prevalent : frequent occurrence : general or widespread acceptance, usage, or dissemination (the ~ of burglaries) (the ~ of radios) (the ~ of rumors) 2 : the degree to which something (as a disease, an infective agent) is prevalent; sometimes : the percent of a population being studied that is affected with a particular disease at a given time

**preu-a-LEN-ti-AL** \\'nē-tēl\ adj [L *prævalent-, prævalens*, pres. part. of *prævalere* to be more able, prevail — more at **PREVAIL**] 1 : **archaic** : POWERFUL, POTENT, INFLUENTIAL, EFFICACIOUS 2 : being in ascendancy : VICTORIOUS, DOMINANT (law schools with a nominal college affiliation... became the ~ type —W.C.Mallalieu) 3 : generally or widely accepted, current, practiced, or favored : generally or extensively existing; WIDESPREAD (places where malaria is ~) **syn** see PREVAILING

**preu-a-LEN-ti-AL-ly** \\'nē-tēlē\ adv : something prevalent

**preu-a-LEN-ti-ALLY** \\'nē-tēlē\ adv : something prevalent

**preu-a-vari-ate** \\'prē-ə-vārēt\ adj [L *prævaricari*, past part. of *prævaricari* to walk crookedly, collude, fr. *pra-* + *varicari* to straddle, fr. *varicus* having the feet spread apart, fr. *varus* bent, knock-kneed; prob. akin to OE *wōð* crooked, OHG *winkil* corner, wade, call of the leg, ON *vōðvī* muscle. Gotu unwāða blameless, L *vatus* bowlegged, *vagus* wandering, Skt *vāñcā* he goes crooked, *vāñgati* he limps, and perh. to Skt *āru* thigh; basic meaning: bending] 1 *obs* : to swerve from regularity or rectitude; go astray 2 : to deviate from the truth; speak inequitably, especially in a *lawyer's* or *politician's* way 3 : to do a *bad* duty or *probity*, as a *Roman* & *civil law* 1 : to commit a crime 2 : to collude with the opposing party to an action in making a sham accusation or defense 2 *old English* law (1) of an *informer* or *defendant* : to collude in order to conduct a sham prosecution (2) : to violate a trust secretly ~ vt 1 *obs* : TRANSGRESS 2 *obs* : PERVERT **syn** see LIE

**preu-a-vari-CA-tion** \\'prē-ə-vārēshən\ n -s [ME *prevaricacion* deviation from duty, fr. LL *prævaricatio*, *prævaricatio*, fr. L *collusio*, fr. *prævaricatus* (past part. of *prævaricari*) + -ion-, -io -ion] 1 : the act or an instance of prevaricating; esp.: a *perversion* or a deviation from the truth 2 : a statement or a deviation from or perverts the truth; often: LIE (the most brutal of the skies, were no such avail —William